

Preview

The history of Crufts Dog Show, which opens today, and the remarkable story of the portrait painter Meredith Frampton, whose work is collected for the first time at a Tate Gallery exhibition, are among the subjects of today's Preview, the 16-page arts and entertainment guide published each Friday with The Times.

Bomb found under runway

Civilian aircraft using a former Battle of Britain fighter station have for 40 years been landing on top of a 500kg bomb. Factories and offices at Shoreham airport, West Sussex, were evacuated after the German wartime bomb was discovered under the runway, about 400 yards from the terminal building.

The switch to Trident-2

Mr John Nott, the Secretary of State for Defence, hinted strongly that Britain may switch to the American Trident-2 missile to replace Polaris in the 1990s. He also confirmed the decision to axe HMS Dreadnought, Britain's oldest nuclear-powered submarine.

Dr Kissinger recovering

Dr Henry Kissinger, the former United States Secretary of State who is recovering from a heart operation, received telephone calls from President Reagan, former President Gerald Ford and Mr Alexander Haig, the Secretary of State. A tube inserted in his throat to assist breathing has been removed.

Wife must pay husband £50,000

The daughter of a millionaire who helped to pay her husband's way as he rose to become a regional company director was told by the Court of Appeal that she must pay him £50,000 as a divorce settlement.

Telecom makes £140m profit

British Telecom made a £140m profit for the first six months of this financial year with its November price increase making a substantial contribution. Over the same period last year there was a £19m loss.

Woman in rape case marries

The Glasgow woman involved in the case of alleged rape which led to Mr Nicholas Brown resigning as Scotland's Solicitor General after the prosecution was dropped, was married yesterday.



Minister takes on race job

Sir George Young, Under-Secretary of State at the Department of the Environment, has been given special responsibility for race relations matters within the department. He has a long record of improving race relations in London.

Boat Race twins

Twin brothers, Hugh and Robert Clay, will row for Oxford University in the Boat Race on March 27. Their brother and father are also rowing Blues. Susan Brown will cox Oxford again.

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Letters: On in vitro fertilization, from Professor L. L. Craft, and the Bishop of Durham; lead in petrol, from Dr R. Russell Jones; the unemployed, from Mr John Ferguson.
Leading articles: Interest rates; Research councils.
Features: pages 9, 10.
Sir Keith Joseph offers a guarantee on university spending; David Watt sees a hidden threat in Reagan's budget; Philip Howard studies the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle; Are party political broadcasts legal?
Obituary, page 12.
Miss Phyllis Morris

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Rail inquiry verdict may favour Aslef

By David Felton, Labour Reporter

Lord McCarthy's inquiry into the rail dispute ended yesterday without hearing evidence from the striking train drivers' union and the committee's findings are expected to be known on Monday.

The sitings ended as the 20,000 footplatemen held their fourteenth one-day strike and there seemed little hope last night of strikes next Sunday, Tuesday and Thursday being called off by the union, the Associated Society of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen (Aslef).

There was a growing feeling last night that the committee may be moving toward recommending payment of the 3 per cent increase which was due to Aslef from the beginning of last month, but was not paid because British Rail wanted commitments on productivity from the unions.

British Rail executives, concerned at the way the inquiry appeared to be leaning, submitted extra evidence yesterday morning in an attempt to emphasise their case that the payment of the 3 per cent, through understandings reached with the unions last August, was always conditional on Aslef's agreement to flexible rostering.

Aslef executive will continue its stance that the strikes will go on until the 3 per cent is paid, and the inquiry report will be ignored by the union unless it accepts the union's arguments.

The executive would probably be prepared to call off the strikes if British Rail agreed to pay the 3 per cent and put the dispute back into the industry's negotiating machinery, but it is difficult to see how the management forecasts of Mr Paul Volcker, the head of the white-collar engineering union, will consider their findings tomorrow and the report will probably be written on Sunday.

British Rail has postponed until Tuesday a board meeting due to have been held today so that it will be able to consider the inquiry findings, which are not binding on the board. Mr Clifford Rose, the board member for industrial relations, said as he left the

inquiry yesterday: "We will look constructively at whatever recommendations Lord McCarthy makes. Beyond that I am not saying anything."

Mr Tom Jenkins, general secretary of the Transport Salaried Staffs' Association (TSSA), said he had a feeling of utter despondency because all the parties had indicated that they were not prepared to compromise. He said he had asked Lord McCarthy to state clearly what advice that British Rail should pay the 3 per cent to the Aslef members because he believed that the understandings on pay and productivity were separate.

He said he thought the productivity issue should be put back into the negotiating machinery and if necessary should be decided by the Railways Staffs Tribunal.

The three members of the inquiry committee also make up the tribunal membership. Mr Sidney Weighell, general secretary of the National Union of Railwaymen (NUR), said he had asked Lord McCarthy to state clearly what he thought was the status of the understanding on productivity and, in particular, of the six efficiency proposals, including flexible rostering.

He also indicated that he shared British Rail's worry that the inquiry may produce recommendations that throw into the melting pot the agreement on flexible rostering that has been signed by the NUR and the TSSA. He said he had asked the inquiry not to promote the agreement.

Miners' leaders, yesterday drew back from calling an immediate national ban on extra movements of coal by road on days when there are rail strikes after being asked by the NUR not to exacerbate the situation.

Left-wingers on the National Union of Mineworkers' executive urged that a ban should be imposed, but instead the NUM is to talk to all three rail unions on Monday.

Mr Raymond Aslef, general secretary, is due to address the TUC's south-east regional council tonight when he will ask for the support of all affiliated unions in London and the south-east.

Mr Roland Davies, the Aslef member who drove the only passenger train to run in Britain on Tuesday, has been "sent to Coventry" by other Aslef members at his depot in Nottingham.

US interest rates worry Chancellor

By Hugh Noyes, Parliamentary Correspondent

Sir Geoffrey Howe, Chancellor of the Exchequer, made clear yesterday to the Commons the serious concern of the Government about continued high interest rates in the United States. Questioned by MPs about the gloomy interest forecasts of Mr Paul Volcker, chairman of the Federal Reserve Board, if the United States budget deficits were not greatly reduced, Sir Geoffrey said that it was important that countries should have regard to the international consequences of their actions.

While accepting that the policies of governments must be determined by their domestic circumstances, the Chancellor agreed to consider further consultations with the United States Administration over their interest levels.

Sir Geoffrey said that the main reason for this increase in interest rates in the country last September was the impact of the higher interest rates in the United States, which was a consequence of prospects of high United States public sector borrowing. While the British Government supported the general objectives of United States policy, it had pressed upon President Reagan's Administration the need to contain budget deficits as was urged in this country.

From the Tory back benches, Mr Terence Higgins (Worth- ing) pointed out to the Chancellor that there was little hope of reducing interest rates in this country while rates remained high on the other side of the Atlantic.

Sir Geoffrey pointed out that his Budget last year enabled this country to enjoy interest rates throughout the summer which were several points lower than they would otherwise have been and several points lower than in other countries round the world.

From the Labour benches, Mr Stanley Newens (Harlow) said the Budget which the President was now producing with its crazy 18 per cent increase in defence expenditure, threatened a deficit which would raise interest rates throughout the world.

Mr Peter Shore, chief opposition spokesman on economic affairs, said that abolition of exchange controls was one of the main reasons why interest rates had gone up during the year. The Chancellor had contributed to the high interest rates of which he was complaining. Sir Geoffrey replied that Mr Shore misunderstood the matter. The impact of the abolition of exchange control on interest rates was small while abolition had brought down exchange rates.

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Leading article, page 11

MP moves to avoid costlier mortgages

By Anthony Bevins, Political Correspondent

An Inland Revenue economy measure is threatening to increase the monthly mortgage payments made by most of the first-time housebuyers as well as a large proportion of the 5.5 million people with mortgages.

Mr George Cunningham, Labour Independent MP for Islington, South and Finsbury, will this afternoon raise the issue in the Commons with a warning that MPs must not allow the proposal to pass into law.

For the MP has maintained that with an average mortgage of £15,000 over 25 years, people on a repayment mortgage at 15 per cent could be asked to pay out an extra £5,850 a month net from April, 1983, because of the new Inland Revenue proposals.

That extra charge will slowly decline over the years, but lower net repayments will only come into effect after year eleven and, then, only if the mortgage has not been altered in the intervening period.

The change, which takes effect from April next year, would, the Inland Revenue confirms, save it about 1,000 staff by cutting out interest relief on mortgages with borrowings making interest payments net of the basic 30 per cent tax rate.

But Mr Cunningham will explain that building societies have decided that they do not wish to make annual increases in the net payments for borrowers on repayment mortgages.

Instead, they will level out



Sir Freddie Laker outside the Lonrho offices in London yesterday: "We want to employ as many of the old staff as we can."

I will foot Laker's Skytrain bill, Tiny Rowland promises

By Michael Bailey and John Witherow

Sir Freddie Laker was running into serious difficulties with his People's Airline last night after satisfaction with Lonrho arrived at a 50-50 partnership to start operations in April—and after which Lonrho's Mr Tiny Rowland guaranteed that the Laker Skytrain passengers would get their money back.

Rival airlines are certain to oppose his application for a renewed licence on the ground that he is no longer a fit and proper person. One of them, British Caledonian, formally notified the Civil Aviation Authority that they would be applying for Laker's Los Angeles licence.

Mr Roland "Tiny" Rowland, chairman of Lonrho, last night, guaranteed that the Laker Skytrain passengers would get their money back.

Emerging from day-long talks at his City headquarters with Sir Freddie Laker, he said: "I'm going to foot the bill."

Sir Freddie had already said that passengers booked on scheduled flights before February 5 would have their tickets honoured by the new company he hopes to set up with Lonrho.

But he admitted that if the new airline did not get off the ground, he did not know what would happen about the £700,000 owed.

Mr Rowland said: "Of course they will get their money back, if not from the new company, then from me. I'm going to foot the bill."

Sir Freddie replied: "That is

the most generous offer I have ever heard of."

Mr Adam Thomson, British Caledonian chairman, said last night that the Laker experiment had failed and "the most honourable solution is to sweep away the Laker Airways debris". Sir Freddie admitted after a two-hour lunchtime meeting with the CAA that "licensing is the main stumbling block at the moment".

Sir Freddie and Mr Rowland have agreed a Skytrain Mark II of which Laker would be chief executive and Lonrho a sleeping partner in a 50-50 deal.

Up to 10 DC 10s, costing around £110m, are apparently envisaged to operate low cost services on the same routes as before: New York, Florida and Los Angeles.

They would probably carry the name "Laker" on the tail.

Will this be free enterprise or unacceptable capitalism?

LAKER TO JOIN TINY ROWLAND

Primate of Poland may baptize Walesa baby

From Roger Boyes, Warsaw, Feb 11

Archbishop Józef Glemp, the Primate of Poland, may baptize the newly born daughter of Mr Lech Walesa, the interned leader of the Solidarity union, according to a senior church spokesman. The move would be a powerful symbolic, underlining church support for Mr Walesa at a time of deadlock in church-state and state-union relations.

The news was revealed at Warsaw airport upon the arrival of Archbishop Glemp from a week's visit to the Vatican. Accompanied by Cardinal Franciszek of Cracow and Archbishop Henryk Gulbinowicz of Wrocław, the Primate had sought advice on future strategy from the Pope.

Archbishop Gulbinowicz said that he "would not rule out the possibility of the Primate carrying out the baptism" of the daughter born about two weeks ago. Other priests added that Mr Walesa might be

temporarily released for the occasion and that his wife and their other six children might be allowed to visit him.

After several weeks of tense discussions with the martial law authorities, the Primate seemed relaxed and in high spirits. Would Mr Walesa be released into church custody? he was asked. "There was a report that he had been released yesterday," he replied, "but I leave it to you journalists to determine the facts."

Church dignitaries questioned nervously that the Primate had been joking. Mr Walesa was still being held in Warsaw.

The tone of church strategy after the Vatican talks seems to be to defuse the situation, to settle down to long-term campaigning, above all to move away from playing a direct political role. "We must take a wider perspective," said Cardinal Macharski.

Foot battles for ousted Labour MP

By Philip Webster, Political Reporter

Mr Michael Foot, the Labour leader, said last night that all Labour MPs were horrified over the failure of Mr Frank Hooley, MP for Sheffield, Heeley, to be re-elected as his party's candidate for the next general election.

At a meeting of the Parliamentary Labour Party he described the defeat of Mr Hooley, one of the party's most respected MPs, by Mr William Mitchell, a left-wing Sheffield councillor, as a deplorable event.

In response to calls on him to raise the issue with the national executive committee Mr Foot said that any action he took would be in consultation with Mr Hooley, a remark taken by MPs as clearly indicating that he will take the matter further.

The issue raises again the prospect of further conflict in the party, with Mr Foot supporting the rights of MPs against their steady erosion by activists.

Labour MPs were shocked by Mr Hooley's failure last Friday to be re-elected. He is far from being regarded as a right-winger, but his defeat has been blamed on Mr Wedgwood Benn in Labour's deputy leadership election contest. He voted for Mr John Silkin on the first ballot and abstained on the second.

Mr Hooley, who was not present at last night's PLP meeting, at which much of the bitterness of last year's reshuffle, was paid warm tributes by all speakers.

Mr Peter Snape, MP for West Bromwich, East, said that Mr Hooley was a hard-working and conscientious MP. If it was wrong to purge Militant, as the far left said, it was wrong to purge MPs like Mr Hooley.

MPs will challenge ruling on contempt

By Frances Gibb

A delegation of Labour MPs is to urge the Home Secretary to consider a change in the law to override the effect of a House of Lords majority ruling yesterday that a journalist was in contempt of court when she showed a journalist Home Office documents that had been read out in open court.

By three to two the law lords ruled that Miss Harriet Harman, legal officer of the National Council for Civil Liberties (NCCCL), was guilty of contempt when she showed a journalist confidential documents obtained by an order of discovery.

But it would not have been contempt, they ruled, if the documents had been shown to a law reporter and not, as in this case, to a journalist who used them in a feature article critical of the Home Office.

The lords ordered Miss Harman to pay the total costs of the hearing and those of the hearing in the Court of Appeal. The order was made on an action brought by the Home Office to "clarify the law". They are estimated at £25,000.

After the ruling, the NCCCL said it would be lodging an appeal with the European Commission on Human Rights and launching an urgent appeal for funds. The order had put it in "an extremely serious financial position".

Lord Diplock, who, with Lord Keith of Kinkel and Lord Roskill, upheld the court of appeal's ruling against Miss Harman, held that a solicitor's undertaking not to use discovered documents for any purpose other than that action, did not vanish just because the documents were read out in open court.

But in a strong dissenting judgment, Lord Scarman and Lord Simon of Glaisdale said there was no justification for "what appears to us to be a discriminatory and unnecessary exclusion of the litigant and his solicitor" from the right to make greater use of the documents, in the way that everybody else could, and exercise a fundamental freedom.

Lord Diplock also made a distinction between the kind of reporter who might be allowed to see documents once read out in court. These fell into two categories, he said.

There were those working for the law reports and general reporters "whose métier it is to produce fair and accurate, and not sensational, accounts of what happened in the course of the day's proceedings in court." But the journalist, Mr David Leigh, then of The Guardian, to whom Miss Harman disclosed the bundle of Home Office documents, was not a press reporter of either of those kinds, Lord Diplock said.

He was a journalist who wanted to see the documents "for the avowed purpose, with which Miss Harman was in sympathy, of composing not a report of the proceedings but a feature article attacking the running of the Home Office."

Continued on back page, col 5

Lovesick—or just a pain in the neck

From Peter Watson, New York, Feb 11

Dr Albert Ritterson must be the most unromantic soul on earth. With St Valentine's Day bearing down on us, sentimentalists are having a field day. In New York, landlords have offered to clean free of charge anything that is red or has hearts on it. The ice cubes in your scotch are available in some bars in heart shapes and on Sunday several restaurants will be providing free oysters as aphrodisiacs.

Against this gushing background, Dr Ritterson, a microbiologist from the University of Rochester, has stuck his neck out and claims to have proved that lovesickness simply does not exist. It is based, he says, on a medical misconception.

He says that when we feel that longing ache for someone else, what we are really feeling is depression, cannot sleep and get feverish at nights, we are deluding ourselves if we think it is love. No, it is brucellosis.

His theory works like this. Two thousand years ago, the Romans feast of Lupercalia used to take place on February 15. This was a fertility festival, designed to celebrate the purity of fertile women and to ward off evil. To accomplish these ambitious goals, the Romans used to sacrifice several goats and a dog each Lupercalia.

Young men, known as Luperci and dressed in loin-cloths made from the hides of goats, ran through the stadiums and, using slender thongs also fashioned from the animal skins, lightly flogged the audiences gathered for the festivities.

Dr Ritterson says in a letter to the New England Journal of Medicine today that brucellosis—the bacterial disease discovered in Malta, in 1887, by Sir David Bruce—was spread in just this way from goats to humans: by contact with the skins of freshly killed animals carrying the disease.

The symptoms of brucellosis are identical with lovesickness: depression, loss of weight, general malaise, aching, dizziness, insomnia, a rise in body temperature at night. It can even be fatal through endocarditis, heartblock.

What clearly must have happened, Dr Ritterson says, his tongue not entirely out of his cheek, is that many Luperci in ancient Rome went down with brucellosis shortly after the celebrations. The sickness became associated with Lupercalia.

The Christian festival of St Valentine, which began after his death in the third century, was celebrated on the day before Lupercalia and brucellosis became mixed up with thwarted love.

Poets and writers have sustained the tradition that unhappy lovers have suffered these symptoms. We have all been taken in. Dr Ritterson had no time to elaborate on his theory today. He was dashing off to order his wife red roses. "She'll kill me with love," he said.

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Export of Stubbs is halted

Mr Paul Channon, Minister for the Arts, has suspended an export licence for a George Stubbs painting and offered the painting to a public collection in the United Kingdom for £750,000 (Christopher Warman writes).

The painting, "Gimcrack with jockey up", on Newmarket Heath, is believed to have been painted in the mid-1760s. Gimcrack raced between 1764 and 1771, and gave his name to the Gimcrack Club and the Gimcrack Stakes at York.

Details of the sale halted by Mr Channon have not been disclosed.

Galleries and public collections have until June 11 to raise the £750,000, the Office of Arts and Libraries said yesterday.

Cabinet faces police dilemma

A dispute over threatened cuts in police budgets in provincial cities looks as if it will have to be resolved in Cabinet.

Metropolitan Police say they are boxed in by the Government's financial restrictions and have threatened cuts of up to 5,000 people in six police forces. They complain that the Metropolitan Police share of resources in London would increase by 24 per cent in 1982-83, compared with a 3.4 per cent increase for other forces.

Mr William Whitelaw, the Home Secretary, has written to the Association of Metropolitan Authorities saying that the possibility of reducing the Metropolitan Police share is being considered urgently.

Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for the Environment, has told West Midlands County Council that it must decide whether it wants to make cuts in the police service.

New leader for postal workers

Mr Alan Tuffin, deputy leader of the Post Office Union, the Union of Communication Workers, is to succeed Mr Tom Jackson as general secretary when he retires in July. Mr Tuffin defeated Mr Tony Clarke, editor of the union's journal, by 110,070 votes to 65,280, a turnout of 88 per cent, in a final ballot.

Mr Tuffin, aged 48, joined the Post Office as a telegram boy at the age of 15.

Dispute goes on at Heathrow

A meeting of 2,000 British Airways ground staff at Heathrow airport yesterday voted to continue the industrial action which has disrupted the airline's services for the past four days.

The staff in dispute, including baggage handlers and aircraft cleaners, say they are not being allowed to work because they refuse to accept new working rosters. BA flights were kept to the air by volunteers, including pilots and senior management, working on their own days off.

Lord Denning's flat raided

Lord Denning, the Master of the Rolls, had his flat in Lincoln's Inn, London, raided yesterday while he was in court and his wife was out shopping. A clock which had belonged to Lady Denning's grandfather and a pair of gold cufflinks and cash were stolen. Earlier Lady Denning showed two young men who said they were window cleaners around the flat.

Saharan dust falls on Britain

As a belt of rain crossed southern Britain yesterday there were reports from many places of falls of reddish brown mud, the London Weather Centre reported last night.

They are believed to have originated in north Africa as fine dust, lifted into the atmosphere by strong desert winds. The dust remained in suspension until washed out by yesterday's rain.

Test-tube study urged

Mr Shirley Williams, Social Democratic MP for Crosby and one of the joint leaders of the party, yesterday called for the setting up of a royal commission to inquire into the social, medical, legal and ethical issues involved in test-tube baby work.

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More students in chase for fewer university places

By Diana Geddes, Education Correspondent

Britain's universities admitted 3 per cent fewer home students last autumn despite a 4 per cent increase in applications compared with 1980, according to figures released yesterday by the Universities Central Council on Admissions.

Applications from overseas students fell by a further 35 per cent, after a big drop in 1980, the first year of the so-called "full-cost" fees; but there was no change in the number of overseas undergraduates actually admitted in 1981 compared with the previous year.

The fall of some 3,000 in the number of some student university places for first-year undergraduates was more than made up for by about 9,000 more admissions to polytechnics.

Mr Fred Jarvis, general secretary of the National Union of Teachers, last night challenged the Government to explain to the thousands of disappointed school-leavers denied university places because of the cuts how the country will now be better off.

Accountancy overlooks university science last year as the most difficult subject on which to enter university, as judged by the proportion of applicants accepted to study the subject of their choice. Only one in five accountancy applicants were successful, compared with

Subject	No. of applicants 1981 entry	% 1981 applicants accepted for preferred subject	Successful home applicants (1980) with 2 Bs and an A or better (rank order in brackets)
1 Accountancy	3,158	20	23* (13)
2 Veterinary science	1,421	21	96* (1)
3 Education	3,524	22	9 (23)
4 Business management	4,740	23	5 (27)
5 Pharmacy	2,599	25	9 (28)
6 Dentistry	2,819	25	18 (19)
7 Architecture	1,867	31	21* (17)
8 Computer science	5,052	32	34 (4)
9 Art and design	1,511	33	23* (13)
10 Medicine	10,810	34	59 (2)
11 Biology	3,596	35	8 (25)
12 Law	8,815	36	38 (3)
13 Mechanical eng	4,758	36	28 (10)
14 Electrical eng	7,387	37	28 (10)
15 Economics	3,667	37	16 (20)
16 Psychology	3,497	37	16 (20)
17 Sociology	2,668	39	4 (28)
18 Civil eng	3,823	40	16 (20)
19 Agriculture	1,412	40	8* (25)
20 English	7,133	41	33 (7)
21 Biochemistry	1,488	43	24 (12)
22 Geography	4,408	44	25 (25)
23 French	1,950	44	25 (25)
24 Music	1,413	46	20* (18)
25 History	4,381	53	30 (8)
26 Mathematics	4,327	61	34 (4)
27 Physics	3,406	61	34 (4)
28 Chemistry	3,186	62	30 (8)

Total (all subjects) 167,096 37 26

* Figures subject to error because of small size of sample.

FitzGerald cites Ulster 'challenge'

From Richard Ford, Dublin

Dr Garret FitzGerald, the Prime Minister, in a policy speech on Northern Ireland, last night spoke of the challenge facing the republic's political leaders over the province, which he described as the single greatest problem that Ireland faced.

He said political leaders in Dublin should wait for Mr James Prior's initiative for a regional assembly to be unveiled before rushing into judgment. The Secretary of State for Northern Ireland had a difficult task in attempting to accommodate the fundamental requirements of the sections of the community but "after years of political vacuum, there are once again stirrings of politics in Northern Ireland", Dr FitzGerald said.

In a clear criticism of Mr Charles Haughey, who has said that any initiative involving only the Six Counties will not succeed, Dr FitzGerald said: "We should not, and my government will not, seek to do us coverage (the initiative) by pouring cold water on Mr Prior's plans before we know what they are."

The Prime Minister acknowledged that the tragedy of Northern Ireland was not the issue in the election but said that although the republic was not its principal victim, they were all players in the tragedy.

The challenge to political leadership was to ensure that the firm's administrative policies were responsible and positive.

The figures, issued by the Government in answer to written parliamentary question by Mr Enoch Powell, Official Unionist MP for Down South, show that the deaths rose from 801 to 1,350.

His opponents have suggested a more pressing reason; his public image was so poor that it was harming the party's election prospects.

An increase of one third in the number of deaths in Northern Ireland last year and a significant rise in injuries sustained is recorded in the latest statistics.

The figures, issued by the Government in answer to written parliamentary question by Mr Enoch Powell, Official Unionist MP for Down South, show that the deaths rose from 801 to 1,350.

Sit-in workers sacked

Two hundred workers at Plessey's Bathgate plant, near Edinburgh, who were dismissed yesterday, voted unanimously to continue their sit-in protest over plans to close the factory. Plessey, the electronics group, sent dismissal notices to the workers, and warned them that they would lose redundancy pay, which could amount to several thousand pounds in some cases.

The workers, most of them women, decided at a mass meeting last night to seek legal advice on whether the company was within its rights in withdrawing the payments.

The firm announced last December that it planned to close the plant by the end of March because of unprofitability and falling demand.

On January 25, some 200 employees of the 330-strong work force began occupying the firm's administrative offices, in an attempt to save

Teacher's attack on magistrate rejected

By Our Education Correspondent

Lord Hailsham of St Marylebone, the Lord Chancellor, has repudiated criticisms made last month about a London stipendiary magistrate who was alleged to have told a teacher that she should expect to be assaulted at least six more times during her career.

Miss Suzanne Puttock, who had been assaulted by a parent, was allegedly told she was wasting public money by bringing the case to court.

In a letter to Mr Michael O'Halloran, Social Democrat MP for Islington North, Lord Hailsham agrees that the statement attributed to Mr David Fingleton, stipendiary magistrate at Highbury Corner Magistrates' Court, would have been objectionable had it been made.

However, he continued: "Inquiries which I have made have established that there was no press report in court and that the accounts which appeared in the press were the result of a distorted and an inaccurate report from an unspecified source as to what had occurred."

"Many young magistrates give an entirely different account of the matter, and in particular deny that he used the expressions attributed to him in the press."

The summons for assault taken out by Miss Puttock, a teacher at Newington Green Junior School, north London, could not be proceeded with because it had not been properly served on the defendant, Mrs Sainte-Marie, the mother of one of Miss Puttock's pupils.

Lord Hailsham said: "Mr Fingleton was concerned," the letter continued, "that Miss Puttock was funding the prosecution herself; but when he learnt that the Inner London Education Authority was funding the proceedings, he remarked that the money was being wasted."

"He tried to convey to Miss Puttock his sympathy for the fact that being a teacher she was in so vulnerable a position. He deplored the fact that the teachers were exposed to the risk of assault as a hazard of their work."

He had made clear that it was up to Miss Puttock to decide whether she wanted to proceed with the case, Lord Hailsham added.

Miss Puttock, in her statement, says Mr Fingleton adopted a stern manner toward herself and her solicitor from the start. She expressed irritation at public action being taken by her action being taken.

(and) suggested that I would not have brought the action if I had to pay for the case myself."

Wife to pay £50,000 to ex-husband

A wealthy wife who helped to pay her husband's way as he rose from a working-class background to a top position in business must also make a £50,000 end-of-marriage payment to him, the Court of Appeal ruled yesterday.

Appena, a 44-year-old woman, failed in an attempt to cut the sum she must pay him.

The court ruled that the husband, a £21,000-a-year regional director with a national retail company, is entitled to the full £50,000 awarded him by Mrs Justice Booth in the Family Division in September.

During the case, in which the court ruled that only the initials of the parties should be reported, it was claimed that Mr B had the prospect of boardroom status and needed the £50,000 to help to buy a £75,000 house in keeping with the status of his job.

Lord Justice Ormrod said yesterday that during the couple's 20-year marriage the pattern of life had been that Mrs B had provided a home out of her resources for her husband and their two children.

The marriage had ended in divorce and the husband was in a difficult position at the age of 50. Having never had an interest in a house, he had none of the protection against inflation that other divorced men already on the "property escalator" enjoyed.

Mrs B, who suffers from multiple sclerosis, has an income of £17,837 a year from trust funds. She appealed against last September's award.

Mr Joseph Jackson, QC, her counsel, told the court that when legal costs were added to the award the real sum she would have to find was about £70,000. However, about £28,000 of the award would come from the sale of a house in Nottingham which Mrs B's trustees provided for her husband while he was working in that area.

Lord Justice Ormrod said the court considered Mrs B could raise the £22,000 balance and pay the £50,000.

It was an "unusual case," the judge said, in which Mrs B had made "very large contributions to the family in financial and every other way."

Her husband had made no financial contribution because she was neither used nor scope for him to do so. Taking into account Mr B's need to buy himself a suitable home, and balancing the financial resources of each party, Lord Justice Ormrod said the award should be £50,000.

Lord Justice Dunn and Lord Justice Eveleigh agreed with the decision.



The lucky boy with the plastic bag

Mrs Linda Gregory, aged 28, of Holmebrook, Derbyshire, with her son John Paul, aged 20 months whose life has probably been saved by a breakthrough in the treatment of kidney failure. Doctors have successfully adapted for babies a technique of dialysis normally used by adults. When the boy was first taken to St James's Hospital, Leeds, he was given only a few weeks to live. Now he is putting on weight and thriving, according to his father, Mr Ian Gregory, aged 31, an electrician.

Many young children with kidney failure die because they are too small to be connected to conventional dialysis machines, which purify the blood. Doctors have adapted an alternative technique, called continuous ambulatory peritoneal dialysis. A tube is inserted surgically into the abdominal cavity and

connected to a plastic bag, containing a special solution, which is worn externally. Babies can toddle about with the bag attached under their clothing, draining off the body's waste material.

The bag and solution must be changed about every four hours except during the night. Mrs Gregory has been trained to carry out the technique.

Mr Trevor Brocklebank, a consultant paediatrician, said yesterday: "We have only applied this technique to children in the past six months. Without this treatment, it is very likely that John Paul would have died."

Mrs Gregory said: "When we brought him to St James's we were told he had only a few weeks to live. We would have tried anything to save his life. We can see an enormous change in him now and we are very happy."

Barnett remembers

By Bernard Donoghue

For five years, as a policy adviser, I sat at the end of the Cabinet committee table watching Mr Joel Barnett set the agenda for the day.

The position of Chief Secretary to the Treasury is one of the least attractive in the Cabinet. His job is to say "No" to fellow ministers who are

living political colleagues, possibly friends, and whose support he will need on various future occasions.

The Identikit person for the job is big, tough, and wholly without compassion or ambition to win affection. Mr Barnett is tiny, sleek, and funny. He peeped smiling above the Cabinet table like a field-mouse that had just eaten the cat.

But he was good at the job. As with Mr Harold Lever, now Lord Lever of Manchester, he gave his experience and numerical agility enabled him to master the intricacies of public expenditure and to avoid bamboozlement either by mandarins massaging the numbers or by party ideologues who could see the difference between political fantasy and economic reality.

He was the small rapier supporting Mr Denis Healey's mighty cudgel. Together they made perhaps the most impressive duo in the Treasury since R. A. Butler's a quarter of a century earlier.

Mr Barnett's newly published book, *Inside the Treasury*, tells the story of financial and economic management under the three consecutive Labour administrations from 1974 to 1979.

The opening 18 months were

a time of honeymoon expansion, when manifesto and election promises were met and the trade unions collected their share of the social contract. The price was spiralling inflation and taxation and a depreciating currency.

Most people in government knew that a crisis lay ahead. The Cabinet contained men of great ability and experience. Apart from Mr Healey and Mr Barnett representing Treasury caution, it included former Chancellors in Mr James Callaghan and Mr Roy Jenkins, as well as Mr Anthony Crosland and Mr Lever, two of the best Chancellors we never had.

But the political pressures and commitments were such that the extravagance simply had to run its course until the

sight of the precipice made it possible to apply the brakes.

First Mr (now Sir) Harold Wilson, skillfully engineered the most effective incomes policy Britain has yet experienced. Then his successor exploited the IMF intervention to take control of British economic policy and usher in two years of very good government.

Mr Callaghan frequently interfered in Treasury policies, imposing his own ideas and having some frank exchanges in private with his Treasury ministers; but he usually supported them totally in Cabinet.

As Mr Barnett repeatedly demonstrates, the Cabinet is overloaded with spenders; the Treasury has only two lonely voices, and Mr Healey one of them was impressive (loud) voices and the Prime Minister does not back them public spending is certain to swell out of control.

That period of financial prudence, when public expenditure was being restrained, the money supply was under control, Mr Barnett and the Treasury rode high and happy, and socialist imperatives were put on a back burner, was one of great triumph and popularity for the Labour Government.

In Parliament, Mr Callaghan seemed never in danger from the Tory enemy without.

The enemy within was a different matter and the final phase of government reviewed here was the winter of discontent.

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Science report

How hot is the earth's core?

By the Staff of "Nature"

Deep beneath our feet the core of the Earth is probably a solid ball of iron, 1,600 miles across. Above it lies an ocean of molten iron, 1,300 miles deep, and above that a sticky fluid of molten rock—the magma.

Both the iron ocean and the magma move slowly in twisting convection currents, heated by some process deep below. The currents create the magnetic field of the Earth, and move the water-filled continents around on the Earth's surface. But what keeps the Earth hot? And what, exactly, is the temperature down there?

New American group, and the theories of Professor Orson L. Anderson of the University of California at Los Angeles (which were revealed in a meeting of the Royal Society recently) may provide the answers.

It is not possible to journey to the centre of the Earth, as Jules Verne imagined, but it is possible—just—to recreate the conditions that pertain there. It is done by firing iron projectiles at immense speeds (over a mile a second) at fixed targets, rather like a bullet.

Measurements of the iron projectiles, with various high-speed detectors and observation of the resulting mess, can determine what happens to iron at the immense pressures down below.

The latest of these measurements, made by Dr J. Michael Brown of Texas A & M University and Dr R. C. Evers of Los Alamos National Laboratory, indicates that iron under high pressure melts at much higher temperatures than had previously been believed.

On the other hand, measurements of the way earthquake waves travel through the Earth show clearly that the iron core is molten for 1300 miles below the magma and above the solid core.

Therefore, Professor Anderson, reviewing Brown and McQueen's data, was forced to conclude that the Earth's core was hotter than previous estimates had it. Anderson says that the centre of the Earth is at about 4700°C.

This has an interesting consequence. Near the surface of the Earth, it is possible to measure the heat flow from below (by measuring the temperature at the bottom and top of deep mines, for example), and knowing the properties of solid and molten rock, it is possible to calculate backwards (or downwards) to estimate the temperature of the magma where it meets the iron ocean.

The result is about 700°C cooler than the figure Anderson calculates for the top of the iron ocean, the iron-bulter melting-point.

Does this mean the melting point is wrong? Unlikely, says Anderson, who has been convinced by Brown and McQueen's data. The discrepancy is due to an unusual region between the iron and the rock, and have even given it a name: the D layer. This narrow region, perhaps 100 miles thick, may act like a kind of blanket from the heat flowing out from the core.

Anderson believes this may be caused by some resistance to physical movement caused by the interaction of two convective currents, systems in two different media (molten iron and molten rock).

Another aspect of the calculations, says Anderson, is that they support the 20-year-old idea of American geophysicist John Verwey that the Earth's heat arises because of the continuous solidification of the inner core from the iron ocean above. This would mean that the inner core is growing at about half-a-centimetre a year, and that in the far future the whole of the Earth's iron core will be solid.

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Do not promise too much, SDP tells candidates

By Philip Webster, Political Reporter

The Social Democratic Party yesterday launched its campaign for the local elections in May by warning its candidates not to promise more than they can deliver.

As the party prepares for the first national test of its electoral appeal and its organisational and campaigning ability, it published a background document to guide area SDP parties on how to adapt the national party's philosophy to local circumstances.

It is clear from the document and from remarks from Mr John Cartwright, chairman of the subcommittee that looks after the SDP's local committee network, at a press conference to introduce it, that candidates will be allowed considerable latitude in the policies they present to the electorate. The party's lack of agreed policies, constantly remarked on by its opponents, is again being made to appear as a virtue rather than a hindrance.

Thus the document says that a detailed policy programme would be inconsistent with the party's need for genuine decentralization of decision-making and programmes can be expected to differ widely across the country.

It is firm, however, on the danger of arousing unjustified expectations. "We must tell people frankly that what SDP-Liberal-controlled councils can achieve alone as long as an insensitive Tory Government stays in power is severely limited."

The party is preparing for the elections having already achieved a remarkable degree of agreement with the Liberals over the sharing out of seats.

Mr Cartwright reported yesterday that of 166 local authorities both parties will

Women line up against plan for sex equality

By Our Political Reporter

Dr David Owen last night urged representatives at the Social Democratic Party's weekend constitutional convention to support positive discrimination for women in the party's organization.

The party's leaders fear that its promise to ensure the equal representation of women is under threat, from women. The convention will be asked to agree that area parties should each elect one man and one woman to the Council for Social Democracy, the party's parliament.

But the recommendation faces resistance at area party level, particularly from women who are in positions of prominence locally, who say that such a provision is unnecessary, even condescending.

Dr Owen last night produced figures indicating that claims that the party's "normal processes" would give women representation of 40 per cent were unfounded.

He told a meeting at the Commons of the 300 Group, whose aim is to bring more women into Parliament, that although 40 per cent of the SDP's members were women, only 18 per cent of its national steering committee, 16 per cent of the weekend convention representatives and 11 per cent of applicants to parliamentary candidates were women.

"All this demonstrates that without some specific provision within the constitution to ensure equal representation, we will continue down the path of the old parties, inadequately representing women in all the decision-making bodies which the SDP will influence."

"We will have insufficient women MPs, insufficient women councillors and an insufficient number of women holding office within the party."

If the convention defeats the plan, it could still be put to a ballot of all members.

Mrs Shirley Williams yesterday defended Social Democratic MPs who supported the Government on the Employment Bill, even though they disagreed with much of its contents (see Press Association reports).

She told a lunch of the United States Chamber of Commerce in London: "The Bill is right to try to protect individuals against the misuse of union power, and that is why we supported it on second reading."

"Yet neither the Employment Bill nor the predictably Pavlovian and exaggerated reaction of the Labour Party to it addresses the real problems. The real problem is that British industrial relations like Britain's political system, are locked in a sterile combat."

She said Social Democrats would seek to change the clauses in the Bill on the industrial democracy, secret ballots for the election of national officials and the political levy.

In the next two months you will see the old parties, despite their cherished mutual hostility, united in an attempt to drown our voice.

The guardians of British science

By Pearce Wright, Science Editor

By considerable juggling of its finances, the Science and Engineering Research Council hopes to avoid serious disruption to existing university research programmes after the recent budget cuts, although many applications for grants from working young scientists cannot be considered this year or next.

In a positive rescue plan, the council has arranged to help the transfer of outstanding academics, whose departments are marked for closure, to another university. In an unprecedented gesture the council is prepared to pay their salaries for up to 10 years if necessary. Such measures have been prompted by the impact of the Government's economic squeeze on academic research.

The council (SERC) is not the most seriously affected of the five research councils, although it is by far the largest. It has a budget this year of £234.4m from a total of £463.9m shared between the five research councils.

The proportion which goes direct to scientists in universities varies. Last year, for example, 40 per cent of the SERC's budget was spent on salaries for scientists to collaborate in international research through organizations such as the Centre for European

Nuclear Research, near Geneva, the European Space Agency, Nato science schemes, and the Anglo-Australian Telescope cost SERC £41.5m.

Those payments give a glimpse of the increasing cost, scale and complexity of maintaining a comprehensive and modern basic research programme. For they form the entry fee for British scientists to conduct experiments in particle physics, astronomy and space exploration which cannot be afforded on a purely national programme.

At the other end of the scale, a piece of brilliant fundamental zoology — on, say, insect behaviour — may be studied in a small laboratory supported for a few hundred pounds.

Whatever the size or subject of a university project, an initial assessment on its merit has been made by one of the hierarchy of almost 100 boards and committees of senior scientists who, in the end, are the arbiters of the standard of British science.

At the top of the pyramid are four main boards of eminent scientists accountable for several broad categories into which research is divided: nuclear physics, astronomy and space research, science, and engineering. Membership of the first three is predominantly from universities, and the engineering board includes industrialists.

The responsibility of each board is wide. The science board, for example, is answerable for the quality of university research in biology, physics, mathematics, chemistry, computing, archaeology and other subjects.

Adequate support for research depends increasingly on very large items of apparatus, for special forms of analysis, which no single university can afford. Therefore, the council makes provision for a central university facility.

Among the equipment for which the science board is liable is one of the most powerful lasers in the world for experimental work, built at the council's Rutherford Laboratory near Oxford; and two huge machines, referred to as the Synchronic Radiation Facility and the Nuclear Structures Facility, at the Daresbury Laboratory, near Warrington, which cost £47m and £14m each year respectively.

Looking to the future, Professor John Kingman, who succeeded Sir Geoffrey Allen in October as chairman of the SERC for the next

NEWS IN SUMMARY

Catamaran ferry trial stormbound

Merseyside Passenger Transport Executive is to carry out trials with Highland Seabird, a high-speed, 180-passenger, diesel-powered catamaran craft, as a possible replacement for the last of the Mersey ferries operating at a loss of £1,750,000 a year John Charter writes from Liverpool.

Highland Seabird, built by Westmar AS in Norway and owned by Western Ferries Scotland, is to be evaluated on the Mersey and possibly chartered for six months.

The official announcement of the plans started inauspiciously yesterday because Highland Seabird was still storm-bound in the Isle of Man.

Representatives of the manufacturers emphasized that vessels of that type are designed for sheltered water operations. Her voyage from Scotland for the proposed demonstration had been beset by gale-force winds and high seas.

Catamarans of that type could fly up river as far as Potterspool, Eastham Country Park and the Ellesmere Port boat museum.

Orders against two solicitors

The names of two solicitors found guilty of unprofessional conduct were ordered to be struck off the Roll by the Solicitors' Disciplinary Tribunal yesterday. Keith John Field, formerly of Ship Street, Brighton, was sentenced at Brighton Crown Court on April 14 last to three years' imprisonment for offences under the Theft Act.

Andrew James Milne, formerly of Nymanton and now of West View, Heath, Wakefield, West Yorkshire, admitted using clients' money for his own purposes.

Hunt for killers of Pakistani

Detectives launched a murder inquiry yesterday after four men left a Pakistani robbed and dying in a back street in Nelson, Lancashire.

The attackers stole a small quantity of cash from Mr Ali Asghar, aged 28, of Reddyford Road, Nelson, and left him in a pool of blood only a mile from his home on Wednesday night.

£9,000 raid at hospital

Two hooded raiders in boiler suits sprayed ammonia on a security guard's face and escaped with £9,000 in wages from Bedford Hospital, Bedford, yesterday.

A white Ford Capri was found in the hospital grounds. It was stolen from Dunstable on Tuesday. Police were trying to trace its movements since then.

Footballer remanded

Terry Hurlock, aged 23, captain of Brentford, the Third Division football club, was remanded by Waltham Forest Magistrates, in London, yesterday, charged with assault and causing criminal damage. With Jamie McMeekin, aged 23, co-defendant, of Walthamstow, he was granted unconditional bail.

They are accused of assaulting Ronald Drevett, causing actual bodily harm, and damaging a car in Walthamstow on January 1. Mr Hurlock and Mr McMeekin allege assault by Mr Drevett, who was also remanded on unconditional bail.

Mackerel catch curb

The mackerel fisheries off south-west Britain are to be closed to large United Kingdom trawlers from the end of next week to conserve stocks, the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food said yesterday. Local vessels less than 60ft long will be allowed to fish with a weekly catch quota of 25 tons.

Mortimer is asked to arbitrate

By David Walker

Mr James Mortimer, former chairman of ACAS, the conciliation service, has been asked by the Labour leaders of the Greater London Council to settle an embarrassing dispute between them and the leaders of eight Labour-controlled London boroughs.

He is being called in to decide the fate of about 300 GLC employees left jobless by the transfer of the GLC's housing to the boroughs. Unless the boroughs agree to reemploy them the GLC may have to make them redundant.

Mr Mortimer, as the next general secretary of the Labour Party, is acceptable to both parties. If he cannot arbitrate, then Mr Brian Rusbridge, secretary of the Local Authorities Conditions of Service Advisory Board, may be asked to help.

The dispute arises from the rapid reduction in the GLC's housing responsibilities. During 1981-82 it is managing just over 100,000 dwellings. But on April 1 it will be left with only about 45,000, of which about 30,000 will be managed jointly with the borough of Tower Hamlets.

Eight boroughs, Brent, Waltham Forest, Hackney, Lambeth, Lewisham, Camden, Haringey and Hounslow, have unwillingly accepted GLC property but have resisted the GLC's attempt to transfer to them its staff.

The GLC hoped that by April 1 about 1,900 employees would have been transferred. Rough agreement had been reached on 1,600 but arbitration is sought on the rest. The boroughs of Hackney, Lambeth and Lewisham have said that the GLC's staff, notably its caretakers, are unsuitable for their needs.

If the GLC does not transfer the staff or dismisses them its leaders will come under pressure from the Conservative opposition and its senior officials.

Anger over second TV delay

From Arthur Osman

Lord Thomson of Monifieth, chairman of the Independent Broadcasting Authority, said yesterday that Central Independent Television, which has had to postpone for the second time the opening of its East Midlands service, had consulted him about its difficulties.

He replied to a telegram from the East Midlands Forum of County Councils, Derbyshire, Leicestershire, Leicestershire, Nottinghamshire and Northamptonshire, which was said to be "seething with indignation" about the further postponement.

A spokesman of the forum said: "Our confidence has been badly shaken and we intend to get the matter raised in the Commons by a local MP. I hesitate to use the word 'renegade', but there are lots of areas to which we need reassurance."

The forum was instrumental in getting the authority to make the Midlands a dual-franchise region and Central, which succeeded ATV, had planned to start its special service on January 1.

A dispute with electricians stopped it, but since a settlement had been announced the service would start next Monday. Central Independent Television has now put it off to a date yet to be fixed because of "new problems and demands" raised by its workforce.

It said it would cost an additional £2m a year to second staff to a temporary studio near Nottingham and it had a projected loss of £2m for the first 15 months.

Fulham pay damages

Fulham football club yesterday agreed to pay Mr Rodney Stone, the former club secretary, £5,750 in settlement of his claim in the High Court for damages for alleged wrongful dismissal.

Airey Neave's sister tells of phone threat

From Our Correspondent, Winchester

Lady Milton, sister of the late Mr Airey Neave, the MP who was murdered by Irish terrorists, was terrified when a mystery caller telephoned her isolated country home and demanded £2,000, a court was told yesterday.

The caller threatened the lives of Lady Milton and her two sons, saying: "The Lord help you all, you know what they did to Airey."

She replied: "Well, I'm afraid I cannot do anything without consulting my solicitor."

Lady Milton told the jury at Winchester Crown Court: "The voice sounded rather stunned by this comment and he said he would contact me later. I was terrified but tried to keep very calm."

Mervyn Baylor, aged 30, and his brother, Chadwick Baylor, aged 28, the sons of Sir Banja-Sie, former Governor General and Chief Justice of Sierra Leone, both deny demanding money with menaces.

Mr Hogn Hayn, for the prosecution, said Lady Mil-

ton was shocked and frightened by the reference to her brother, "but she overcame her fear and gave that very stoic and very English reply about speaking to her solicitor."

Lady Milton, whose address was not given open court for security reasons, got in touch with her solicitor, who arrived at her home with the police.

The court was told that Mr Chadwick Baylor was an old school friend of Lady Milton's younger son, Nigel, and had dined at the Milton home a fortnight before the call.

Police traced Mr Chadwick Baylor, of Lander Road, Clapham, South London.

He added that Mr Nervin Baylor, of Sir Francis Chichester Way, Battersea, South London, told the police when arrested: "Oh no. I told him we should not do it. Chad told me what to say on the phone."

The case continues today.

Prison for fiddler on the railway

Paul Richmond, a British Rail timekeeper, was sent to jail for five years yesterday for calling up a phantom army of railway workers to swindle BR of £13,000 in wages.

Richmond, aged 25, of Bridge Path, Park Street, St Albans, Hertfordshire, admitted guilty at St Albans Crown Court to two charges of obtaining property by deception and eight charges of conspiring to defraud British Rail.

The court heard that Richmond used fictitious names in the BR wages books and even got his friends to pose as rail workers and turn up for medical checks in order to make his fraud successful from December, 1979, until the summer of 1980.

Also before the court were David Timberlake, aged 22, of Clarence Road, Peter Crawley, aged 21, of Watford Road, Terence Rogers, aged 19, and Keith Rogers, aged 21, both of Sandfield Road, and Alfred Legg, aged 19, of Station Road, all of St Albans, who all admitted conspiring to defraud British Rail and were given suspended sentences or community service orders. They were all ordered to pay compensation.

Mr Stephen Coward, for the prosecution, said the Richmond invented a worker called "Paul Smith", who was paid for six weeks, and then "left" when a medical check was imminent.

A second fiddle was "far more sophisticated," Mr Coward said. Richmond persuaded friends to apply for BR jobs under fictitious names, and then took half the wages they collected each week.

Terence Rogers, Mr Coward said, even went to a medical check, masquerading as a "David Williams", and drew £100 a week from the booking office at Luton station.

Rogers collected a total of £1,112, half of which went to Richmond. Mr Coward said Richmond drew £13,000 in wages, because of the fiddle. The net gain to Richmond and his colleagues had been £9,000.

Jailing Richmond, who asked for 24 other offences to be considered, said: "Michael Hickman told him: 'You were the architect and inventor of a scheme for milking British Railways.'



Mr Alan Curl putting the finishing touches to a £55 wedding cake at his bakery in Wandsworth, London

£55 wedding cake

Britain's white economy is booming. More couples are taking the matrimonial plunge, more brides are trekking up the aisle in white and more guests are being fed and watered at receptions. And the wedding cake has finally broken the £50 barrier (David Nicholson-Court writes).

Those and a host of other salient facts about the state of contemporary matrimony are disclosed in a survey published today by *Wedding Day* magazine. They show, the magazine says, that true love is beating the recession.

The extent of that victory can be gauged by the finding that intending couples are planning to spend 13 per cent more on their weddings than last year. Even the increasing

Farm aid to France 'illegal'

By John Young

An agricultural wrangle between Britain and France threatened to erupt yesterday when Ministry of Agriculture officials told Commons select committee that between a quarter and a third of the latest government aid to French farmers were at first sight illegal under the Treaty of Rome.

At the same time the French embassy in London issued a statement claiming that the average Briton engaged in agriculture had received £50 more in aid than his French counterpart during this financial year.

The £510m French package was announced towards the end of last year and was immediately denounced by Mr Peter Walker, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, as an encouragement to overproduction and unfair competition.

Mr Walker returned to the attack in Eastbourne last week when he called for action against the French Government's huge handouts to its farmers before they destroyed the whole concept of free and equal trade in Europe. France's agriculture budget was seven times as great as Britain's, although the industry was only twice the size, he said.

Yesterday Mr Jean-Baptiste Danel, the French agricultural attaché in London, said the average expenditure on a farm in France was £2,285 compared with the United Kingdom figure of £2,904.

It was misleading to quote totals because the two countries' agricultural budgets were constructed differently. That was no use, however, with British ministry officials, who assured the Commons agricultural committee yesterday that in their view many of the French payments were illegal.

Mr Ian Redfern, an assistant under-secretary, added that the sheer size of the package would have a serious impact on the working of the common agricultural policy.

The question of cheap food supplies to Dutch horticulturalists, enabling them to undercut other EEC producers, was also raised.

Mr Robin Catford, an under-secretary, said that until agreement was reached the British glasshouse industry faced a bleak future, but he was confident that action would be taken soon.

Miss Joan Maynard, Labour MP for Sheffield, Brightside, asked what was the point of increasing production when people could not afford to buy the produce.

'Two million will lose benefits'

By Pat Healy, Social Services Correspondent

More than two million households will lose some housing benefits under new government proposals, ministers confirmed yesterday as the Commons standing committee on the Social Security and Housing Benefits Bill began the first parliamentary scrutiny of the measure. Losses would be confined to a maximum of 75p a household each week.

The scheme will merge the dual system of rent and rate rebates from local authorities for some people and housing allowances, usually equivalent to 100 per cent of housing costs, for those receiving supplementary benefits. Instead, all state help with housing costs will be paid by local authorities.

Although the new scheme is intended to simplify help with housing costs, it has been widely criticised as being more complicated than the present systems and unfair in that it will reduce help with housing costs for a number of low income households.

The losses arise because the change is being introduced without extra money being made available, so that some people will be better off while others will lose.

The standing committee yesterday had some guidance on how the new scheme is expected to work in a paper on the proposed procedures, and the use of regulation-making powers. But the paper was strongly criticised for being silent on crucial issues and not giving MPs enough information on how the new scheme will work.

Mr Nicholas Raynsford, director of the Shelter Housing Aid Centre, said yesterday that the paper gave no indication of how the losses would be limited to 75p a household, nor did it give any indication of how the protection of council tenants in high rented accommodation would be continued.

"The paper falls far short of the detailed draft regulations which should be available before Parliament starts to consider the scheme in committee," he said.

"The committee is being asked to sign a blank cheque for the Secretary of State to produce detailed regulations that will affect the living standards of approaching one quarter of the country's population."

The Government has postponed implementation of the scheme from next November until April 1983, because of pressure from local authority associations.

High tech paint check for BL

Paint quality in the car industry depends on strict and accurate control of the paint process.

But until recently this has been a long laborious process involving manual checking and inspection.

Now BL Technology have developed a continuous electronic measuring system.

It depends on the very latest microchip technology and it monitors and records no less than 150 different characteristics as every car is painted.

Another example of high technology that helps to make the paint finish on BL cars better than ever.

BL Fighting back

Union's right to black TV series upheld by court

By Kenneth Gosling

A union had not acted unlawfully in blacking a television series made by an independent production company because it feared redundancy among its members, the Law Lords decided yesterday.

In a unanimous judgment they allowed an appeal by the Association of Cinematograph, Television and Allied Technicians (ACTT) against a Court of Appeal decision granting an injunction to Hadnor Productions against two union officials over a pop music series called *Unforgettable*.

The union said afterwards it was delighted at the outcome of the hearing. Hadnor, however, said: "This means we have lost the independent television market completely and no independent facility company can offer programmes to the network."

Mr David Heath-hadfield, a Hadnor director, said the company would be considering whether to proceed with a £1.5m damages action against the ACTT. "After all the legal wrangles we have had over the past year it is not our intention to try to aggravate the situation any further. The implications for television production companies using ingenuity and enterprise to expand the television field are serious."

ACTT's appeal is the first of its kind to be given financial support by the TUC. Mr Roy Lockett, the union's deputy general secretary, said: "Having

GKN calls halt to challenge on rates

From Arthur Osman Birmingham

One of Britain's biggest industrial companies said yesterday it had grave reservations about the methods and expenditure of the Midlands County Council's economic development committee, which was set up when Labour regained control last May.

Mr Roy Roberts, group managing director of GKN, said he had been advised that some of the committee's past or proposed expenditure as shown in reports, was "questionable".

GKN was a party in a recent High Court action which quashed the county's supplementary precept of 14p in the pound and led to a cheap bus fares policy being abandoned. The company said it did not intend to challenge a new precept of 5.75p. The burden had been considerably mitigated and it was felt that a fresh challenge would cause further confusion.

Mr Roberts said: "We have been advised that in legal terms the new precept suffers from several of the same defects as the old one. In particular, there has been a failure to give consideration to avoiding or reducing loss of central government grant and a failure to take into account the fact that the duty owed by the council to ratepayers."

He continued: "GKN wholeheartedly supports any initiative which is likely to result in permanent new jobs within the West Midlands."

"We stress, however, the words 'permanent' and 'new' because we have grave reservations about whether the methods the council is adopting which is being introduced are likely to achieve a material improvement in the number of permanent and new jobs in the changed and fiercely competitive circumstances of the 1980s."

"The mere temporary provision by one means or another of favourable financial terms will not ensure the long-term viability of a business and we would not regard as new jobs which have in effect been drawn from elsewhere by the financial terms offered."

"We see no sign that any advantage in job creation from these initiatives has been balanced by any assessment of the consequent rate burden upon existing employers, such as our company."



Mr Geoffrey Tite, aged 26, of Buckland Newton, Dorset, with his home-made "rabbit buggy". The vehicle is too light to damage crops and can cover 1,000 acres in three hours. With his wife using the searchlight, Mr Tite once bagged 63 rabbits in one night.

Warn rape complainants about privacy risk, academics urge

By Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent

Leading criminologists involved in research into rape suggest that complainants should be warned that information they give to police might be used in the investigation.

They say it is unfortunate that personal information told to doctors because of the respect in which they are held should go into the "law enforcement arena".

The criticism is by Professor Gilbert Geis, visiting fellow at the Institute of Criminology, Cambridge, from the University of California, and Dr Richard Wright, a research associate at the institute. Their criticism is made in an updated version of an article that first appeared in *The Police Surgeon* in 1978 and is based on data obtained then.

They then found that police surgeons were divided over whether to ask a complainant of rape about her previous sexual history and pass the answers to the police.

Forty-nine per cent were in favour of finding out about a woman's previous sexual experience with men other than her husband and telling the police, but 51 per cent disagreed. Three quarters of police surgeons believed that inquiry into the sexual history of the complainant served a legitimate medical purpose.

The criminologists say: "It may be important for a defendant's case to reveal 'damaging' data about a complainant's previous sexual activities, but such disclosure would prove socially, even medically, harmful, to the woman."

"What policy are the police surgeons to follow in such matters? Is their obligation to the complainant, as a patient, or to the criminal justice system?"

Dr Hugh Davies, honorary secretary of the Association of Police Surgeons of Great Britain, said the complainant's permission was asked for the examination and for the findings to be submitted in a report to the police.

He accepted that she was not asked if anything disclosed by her might be passed on. "But an experienced police surgeon would make her aware of the possibility."

If she said that she had never had sexual intercourse before and there were signs of physical damage consistent with a girl's having been a virgin, that was evidence towards corroboration of her story.

The researchers say they are puzzled about the discrepancy between the "extraordinarily large" case load said to be handled by the police surgeons and official statistics. The research suggested that police surgeons saw three to five times more rape complainants annually than appeared in the official figures.

It may be that, as the police surgeons estimate, about one third of these complaints are spurious they write.

"The number of estimated false complaints, however, seems to us extremely high, although by the nature of the issue the matter is not readily determined."

The survey was of 128 police surgeons in the association, who said they had examined during the year a total of 1,379 women complaining of completed rapes.

Kissinger worry for NHS

By Our Medical Correspondent

Dr Henry Kissinger's decision to put his trust in coronary by-pass surgery will generate a demand for similar procedures in Britain that may embarrass a financially overstretched National Health Service.

The three specialist heart units in London carry out 1,800 by-pass operations a year. There is no waiting list and selection for surgery is on clinical grounds alone.

Cardiologists outside these specialised units expect that the national picture will change when patients realise that surgical procedures can enable many angina sufferers, not helped by medical treatment, to resume work.

In the coronary artery disease the arteries supplying the heart are gradually narrowed so that the heart muscle is starved of blood, carrying the oxygen. Modern X-ray techniques enable the coronary arterial system to be outlined so that the operation knows the exact position of any narrowed areas.

By-pass surgery consists of by-passing those narrow patches in the three main coronary arteries. Thus there is usually a triple by-pass operation using sections of saphenous vein removed from the leg. The by-pass leads from the root of the aorta to the far side of the affected artery.

The operation is comparatively safe, but the mortality varies enormously from hospital to hospital and can be directly related to the number of operations performed by the surgical team. In the best hands in the United States mortality is less than 1 per cent, but even if those figures could be universally achieved it is not an operation undertaken lightly.

Most cardiologists in Britain believe that it is essentially a palliative operation for the relief of angina or other symptoms that cannot be helped by medical means.

It is apparent that in suitable subjects about 90 per cent find that their symptoms are considerably improved and are able to resume a nearly normal life. The advantages gained by surgery are enormous, but after about five years when coronary arterial disease is apt to recur.

Statistics have indicated until now that although the quality of life is improved for the patient, the treatment does not prolong his life. However recent results indicate that there may be some slight improvement in life expectancy as well.

An operation in a private unit, allowing for a three-day intensive care, would cost not less than £10,000.

That money would be refunded by the medical insurance firms to those who have private medical cover. The private sector would not be happy to see such surgery being available only to the rich or the insured.

Rebuff for critics of judges

By Richard Evans

Mr Patrick Mayhew, Minister of State at the Home Office, yesterday defended the training on sentencing given to judges, after criticism from MPs.

The clash, during the committee stage of the Criminal Justice Bill, came after Mr Alexander Lyon, a deputy circuit judge and former Labour Home Office minister, said sentences were often based on the current view in a "bar mess" and benches worked within "tariffs" that they knew would be allowed by the Court of Appeal.

No one on the criminal bench at whatever level, he said, should sentence anyone before he had six months' experience as a magistrate or judge. "They should be taken round round establishments and subjected to the information which is available, so that they know it is not necessary to have high tariffs in order to do justice to the prisoner and the public," Mr Lyon said.

Mr Edward Lyons, SDP MP for Bradford, West, and a QC, said training was not sufficient and he criticized the judges' lack of knowledge of modern penological thought.

Mr Mayhew, however, said judges knew much more about sentencing than the two MPs had suggested.

"Today every newly appointed deputy circuit judge, before he first sits, spends a period of time, normally between five and ten days, sitting in a court with an experienced circuit judge."

"The precise time is decided by the presiding judge. He visits a prison and a borstal institution receiving offenders from the court at which he will be sitting, and a probation office. He attends a residential seminar, which includes one day of visits to prison establishments. This is taken extremely seriously, as it deserves to, and as the seriousness of the subject demands it should be."

He said that each year about sixty-five experienced circuit judges and two hundred deputy circuit judges were invited to join a three-and-a-half-day residential judicial seminar that was also attended by newly appointed High Court judges. "While attendance is not obligatory, on practice, invitations to those newly appointed judges are almost always accepted and when they are declined they renewed the next year," the minister said.

The position on training was far more reassuring than allowed for by Mr Lyon and Mr Lyons.

When Mr Lyon asked Mr Mayhew to name another country where judges "got such inadequate training", the minister replied that in many countries one rose through the judicial ranks according to how one kept one's "nose clean with the government of the day. I would not wish us to depart from our procedures at all."

Action to end civil law waste is urged

By Frances Gibb

An urgent review of the civil legal system to identify those aspects causing avoidable delay and unnecessary expense is urged by the Law Commission in its annual report, published yesterday.

A new body should be set up to draw up proposals for immediate improvements and radical experiments to save time and money, the commission says.

It notes that over the last year there has been considerable comment on the civil procedure and on the delay and expense in the system. "Some criticism has been immoderate and ill informed, but much has been fair, moderate and accurate", the commission says.

The Royal Commission on Legal Services in 1979 recommended that civil procedure be kept under continuous review and said that the Law Commission, suitably expanded, might perform that duty.

But the Law Commission felt the task called for a new body designed for the purpose. "Civil procedure is potentially a subject of almost limitless scope", it says, and thus was no early prospect of the commission being expanded.

Any new body must first undertake a general reappraisal of the civil procedure, its rules and the various assumptions on which it rests.

A second and "much more urgent" task was to identify the parts causing delay and expense and to draw up improvement plans.

On the Government's delay in implementing the commission's proposals for law reform, the commission

Virus link found with cancer

By Annabel Ferriman Health Services Correspondent

A common virus which causes sore throats and eye irritation has been found to transform ordinary human cells into cancer-type cells in laboratory work at Birmingham University.

Scientists there have not yet published their results but think their work on the adenovirus could have significant implications. If some human cancers are found to be caused by a virus, a vaccine could be developed, they say, or if the mechanism of the virus could be discovered, a drug to block its action might be produced.

Professor David Harnden, head of the Cancer Research Campaign's department of cancer studies at the university, said that work on the adenovirus was part of a campaign in London yesterday. He said that until recently viruses were thought to cause cancer only in animals, but work on the Epstein Barr virus and on human "T" cell leukemia indicated that they might also cause human cancers.

When human cells in his laboratory had been injected with the adenovirus, which had long been known to cause cancer in animals, they had been transformed into cells with the properties of cancer cells, he said.

Professor Harnden added that cancer, which kills one in five British people in a group of diseases, rather than one disease, and has a range of causes and possible cures.

The seminar brought together members of the 500 Group, a newly launched group of businessmen who aim to raise £1m from industry and commerce to provide a new building for Professor Harnden's department.

So far 85 companies have joined the group and pledged £250,000. The group is looking for 415 more companies to join, each promising to raise £2,000.

The money is being raised by the staff of the companies concerned through raffles, auctions, walks, discotheques and other social events. Companies who have joined include British Home Stores, Sainsbury, British Caledonian, Associated Biscuits, Austin Reed, Kyle Stewart and JCB Materials Handling.

Defence staff chief to have bigger role

By Henry Stanhope, Defence Correspondent

The position of the Chief of Defence Staff (CDS), Britain's most senior serving officer, has been strengthened at the Ministry of Defence in accordance with plans disclosed three months ago.

He will continue to represent the views of the other chiefs of staff (of the Navy, Army and RAF) in advising the Secretary of State for Defence. But in future his primary responsibility will be to give the minister his "neutral" opinion as the Government's leading military adviser.

Mr John Nott, the Secretary of State for Defence, made known his intentions when appearing before the Commons Defence Committee in November. Now he has written to Mr Cranley, the Conservative chairman of the all-party committee, confirming that the plan has been effected.

Ministry sources have been anxiously paying down the importance of the changes, describing it as only a shift of emphasis, for fear of worsening morale among the Services.

Until now it has been left to the CDS to determine how far he should present his own views and how far he should act as spokesman for all the chiefs. A strong CDS such as Lord Mountbatten of Burma tended to express his own independent opinion with some force.

More recent officers in the post, now held by Admiral of



Admiral Sir Terence Lewin: Will have more power

the Fleet Sir Terence Lewin, acted more like a chairman. Now every CDS will be expected to follow the Mountbatten model.

The change is significant because it will be seen as another step to strengthen the power of "the centre" over the single services in the ministry, although the other chiefs of staff will retain all their old rights, including access to the Prime Minister if they wish.

Previous Defence Secretaries have tried to achieve that, without conspicuous success. Mr Nott's position has already been strengthened by Mrs Margaret Thatcher's decision last summer to scrap the single Service junior ministers.

Newspaper 'insensitive' to victim

The East London Advertiser has been censured for publishing the name, age and address of the victim of an indecent assault, in an advertisement published today by the Press Council.

Upholding a complaint by a woman in Stepney that these details should not have been given, the council said the newspaper's conduct was grossly insensitive and could cause her further distress.

After the Advertiser's report gave details about the woman and the assault, she wrote to Mr Robert Hutchins, the editor, saying that it was irresponsible to give the details and insensitive to her to have her name in the paper.

She demanded an assurance that her staff would not print names and addresses of sexual victims without their permission. She also complained to the council that the report endangered her because her assailant was not caught.

Mr Hutchins said the complainant was in no position to demand assurances on collecting and publishing news.

The complainant told the council that publicizing her personal details intruded into her private distress. The report came from confidential informants at the police station, she said. It lessened public confidence, invited the imposition of controls on press freedom, and discouraged local people from reporting crime to the police.

The editor said publishing the victim's name and address was the Advertiser's practice. They had no access to confidential police information.

The council's adjudication was:

The East London Advertiser's publication of the name, age and address of a woman cyclist it reported as having been indecently assaulted by an unidentified youth was grossly insensitive and calculated to cause the victim further distress.

The editor's explanation to the Press Council that the publication was in accordance with his paper's usual practice is a matter of concern to the council. It finds the publication to have been a lapse from acceptable press standards.

The embarrassment of such publication is likely to deter women from reporting crime of this type and should be, and usually is, avoided by newspapers.

The conduct of the East London Advertiser is strongly censured by the Press Council and the complaint against it upheld. The council does not intend to identify its complainant.

Church said to be acting too much like a sect

By Clifford Longley, Religious Affairs Correspondent

The tension between Parliament and the Church of England over the use of the Book of Common Prayer in 1981 was part of more general dissatisfaction among politicians that the church was becoming too political, and behaving like a sect, according to a new survey of the 1982 Church of England Year Book published today.

The preface, an annual comment from an unidentified senior churchman, says Mr John Stokes, Conservative MP for Halesowen and Stourbridge, was summing up a widespread feeling when he remarked: "The bishops of the Anglican Church seemed more concerned with promoting vague and general social issues, instead of insisting on personal holiness and the highest standards of personal conduct for Christians."

That is linked with another general complaint, that the church, while remaining the official religion of the country, behaves increasingly as if it were a sect, concerned with the interests of the regular churchgoers rather than with the wider body of people who number themselves among its members.

Those feelings fuelled the anger of those in both Houses of Parliament who voted for a Bill to reinforce the use of the Book of Common Prayer and reverse the trend towards the new Alternative Services Book.

"There was speaking in both houses of exceptional bitterness; in particular, the bishops were subject to a degree of vilification and

Anglers are in a spin

From Ronald Kershaw, Leeds

Thousands of trout fishermen, busily dressing flies, oiling reels and flexing flyrods in anticipation of the opening of the trout season this spring, are waiting anxiously to hear the details from Mr Peter Walker, Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries, of a new threat to their art.

It is called whirling disease, or myxosoma cerebrales. In simplified terms it is a parasite which gets into the skull of trout fry, causing a fish to lose its balance so that it swims round and round until it eventually dies. If the fry can grow to three inches before being attacked, the parasite makes no impression.

Mr Roy Mason, Labour MP for Barnsley, a dourly rodderman who has never looked back since he caught a 5lb trout on an Ace of Spades with his first cast a

Anglers are in a spin

couple of seasons ago, is putting Mr Walker on the hook on Monday with three parliamentary questions about the whirling trout.

He wants to know what reports have been received by the minister about the disease at fish farms; whether he has banned the movement of live trout and eggs in suspect areas and, if so, which farms are being controlled and what are the number of trout fishing waters being denied replenishment of stocks.

Further, Mr Mason wants to know how seriously the minister is treating the discovery of whirling disease in fish farms and what are the prospects of their being declared safe in time for the trout season. It is understood that 24 British farms are affected.

POWER STATION HITCH

Machinery at the new £400 underground power station at Dinorwic, in North Wales, overheated during commissioning tests and is being rebuilt.

The setback to this unique scheme, built into a mountain, was described last night by Mr Iorwerth Ellis, the project manager, as disappointing, but he said allowances had been made in the construction for technical difficulties because the generators, the largest of their type yet built, were assembled in position and they could not be tested beforehand in the factory.

The equipment which overheated was the first of six large generators to come into service in a pumped storage project.

£80,000 for pillion rider

Miss Jayne Sharnan, aged 21, a hairdresser, of Redway Road, Brighton, a pillion passenger who suffered brain damage in a road accident, was awarded £80,000 agreed damages in the High Court in London yesterday.

She sued Mrs Dorothy Sneddon, a motorist, of Queen Alexandra Avenue, Hove, over the accident in January, 1978.

مكتبة من الأصل

Syria says US exaggerated unrest in Hama

From Tewfik Mishlawi, Beirut, Feb 11

Travellers from Syria confirmed today that the Syrian Army attacked the city of Hama, 120 miles north of Damascus on Wednesday and arrested hundreds of rebels. About 3,000 troops were used in the operation.

However, Syria protested strongly to the United States over official Washington reports yesterday about an alleged uprising in Hama and complained of "gross intervention in Syria's internal affairs". Syrian Foreign Ministry sources said the Government was also displeased with the American Embassy in Damascus for "supplying the State Department with false information" about unrest.

The sources would neither confirm nor deny reports about Syrian intentions to ask for the withdrawal of the American Ambassador in Damascus, Mr Robert Peghelli, who took up his post only a few months ago.

Earlier a Syrian Government statement had denied State Department reports that Hama had been sealed off after fierce clashes between the army and militant religious fundamentalists of the Muslim Brotherhood.

The State Department spokesman, Mr Dean S. Pitcher, had told reporters that Hama, a traditional hotbed for Muslim extremists, had been cut off by troops supported by tanks and heavy artillery. He added that

Washington was in regular contact with the Syrian Embassy in Damascus on the situation.

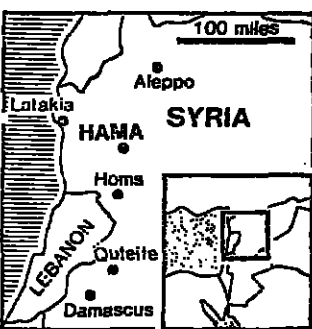
In its statement, the Damascus Government said the American allegations "confirm once again the relationship that exists between the United States and the crimes committed by the Muslim Brotherhood gang against the people of Syria."

"We would like to assure the Government of the United States that the situation in Syria is strong and normal," the statement continued.

Nevertheless it confirmed that a security dragnet had been carried out "in search for arms at the hide-outs of the Muslim Brotherhood gangs. The Syrian security forces and the (Baath) party organs have with full cooperation of the citizens, been able to confiscate hundreds of weapons and arrest a number of wanted criminals and fugitives."

Western diplomats in Beirut said the reports about Hama unrest were somewhat exaggerated, "and to have the State Department take the initiative in releasing such reports was somewhat undiplomatic."

A Syrian official, who asked to remain unnamed, said: "The American reports are evidence of US efforts to distort Syria's image and to short-circuit our successful diplomatic campaign against Israel for annexing our Golan Heights."



Travellers from Syria confirmed today that hundreds of people were arrested and large quantities of weapons seized when the Syrian Army made its thrust into Hama on Wednesday.

The travellers said that the attack on the city was launched after a Syrian Army patrol, heading towards Hama, was ambushed.

Plumb to lead Strasbourg Tories

By George Clark
European Political Correspondent

Mrs Margaret Thatcher moved swiftly yesterday to endorse the election of Sir Henry Plumb, the former president of the National Farmers' Union, as the new leader of the European Democratic (Conservative) group in the European Parliament.

At a group meeting in London, the Conservative MEPs decided by a large majority to have Sir Henry, MEP for the Cotswolds, as their leader for the remaining two and a half years of the European Parliament's term of office in place of Sir James Scott-Hopkins, another farmer and MEP for Hereford and Worcester, after Mrs Thatcher had appointed him as the leader of the British Conservatives.

There were three candidates yesterday. According to some members present, the result was Sir Henry, 36 votes; Sir James, 13; and Sir Fred Catherwood, the former director-general of the National Economic Development Council, 11. This would indicate that three Conservative MEPs were absent or did not vote.

Mrs Thatcher quickly resolved a constitutional dilemma. It was always possible that the European Democratic group, made up of 60 British Conservatives, one Ulster Unionist, and two Danish Conservatives, could elect a European leader whom Mrs Thatcher would not consider the best person to lead the British contingent of Tories.

But it was already known that she would be willing to



Sir Henry Plumb: Striving for a new European approach on economy, and unemployment.

approve Sir Henry's appointment which could be of much significance in the next two years during the battle that the British Government is waging on a fundamental restructuring of the EEC budget.

After his election, Sir Henry assured the group that his main preoccupation would be to transform the European approach to the economic crisis and to the Community's total of 10 million jobless.

He pledged himself to work with Sir David Nicolson, MEP for Central London, and others within the European Parliament and outside it, to induce the European Commission and the Council of Ministers to adopt a common strategy for industry and for measures to combat unemployment.

He told me earlier that, cutting across political allegiances, he believes that the MEPs are facing a test of credibility.

In a letter asking for

support in the election, Sir Henry urged that the Conservative group should create new institutional links with the 117-strong Christian Democratic group under its new leader, Signor Paolo Barbi, of Italy, and also with the Liberals who, in the European context, are closer in their political views to the Conservatives than any other group. Where appropriate, the group would also work with the European Progressive Democrats, mainly Gaullists.

Loan deal forces US aide to quit

From Nicholas Hirst
Washington, Feb 11

Mr Joseph Canzeri has resigned as a White House aide after disclosures that he borrowed \$400,000 (£216,000) at low interest rates and put two claims for the same expenses.

An executive assistant to Mr Michael Deaver, White House deputy chief of staff, Mr Canzeri said he left his post to save the President any embarrassment.

"I firmly believe I did nothing wrong, improper or incorrect," he said, but added that he did not want the President "bruised or blackened" by anything he had done.

Mr Canzeri, a campaign worker and long-time associate of Mr Nelson Rockefeller, Vice-President during the Ford Administration, had borrowed \$400,000 from Nelson's brother, Laurence Rockefeller, and Mr Donald Koll, a California property developer, at less than market rates.

The question Mr Canzeri would have had to answer had he stayed in his job was whether it was ethical for him to have taken the cheap money, and whether it amounted to a supplement to his official salary from outside sources that created a conflict of interest.

Von Bulow challenges blood test evidence

From Adam Edwards
Newport, Rhode Island, Feb 11

Defence lawyers representing Claus von Bulow, who is charged with trying to kill his wife with insulin injections, are challenging state evidence on the level of insulin found in Mrs Martha "Sunny" von Bulow's blood after she was admitted to hospital in a coma on December 21, 1980.

The defence is attempting to persuade the jury that the extremely high level of insulin discovered was found in a blood sample taken after Mrs von Bulow had been injected with glucose at the hospital.

Mrs von Bulow has been in an irreversible coma since then.

Mr von Bulow, a former London barrister, has two lines of defence. The first is that if his wife's coma is from insulin it was self-induced by over-indulgence in drugs, alcohol and sweets. The second argument is that a barbiturate and aspirin overdose made her dizzy so that she fell and became comatose from the cold bathroom floor and possible internal head injuries.

But Dr Gerhard Meier, the first person to treat Mrs von Bulow, said no alcohol was found in her blood and the level of barbiturate and aspirin discovered was unlikely to induce a coma.

Iran celebrates third year of revolution

By David Cross

Hundreds of thousands of supporters of Ayatollah Khomeini yesterday celebrated the third anniversary of the revolution which overthrew the Shah of Iran with demonstrations, prayers and sports events in Tehran and other Iranian cities. In a message to mark the occasion, the ayatollah said that his Government was more powerful now than at any other stage of the revolution.

In a fresh series of moves designed to wipe out continuing opposition to his rule, Revolutionary Guards were reported to have raided the hide-outs of several leftist guerrilla groups and to have made an undisclosed number of arrests earlier in the week.

In London, Iranian supporters of the late Shah commemorated his fall from power with a film and slide show at the Commonwealth Institute. Up to four hundred exiles, intermittently shouting anti-Khomeini slogans,

watched a series of photographs of tortured and executed former generals, politicians and other opponents of the Khomeini regime flashed across the screen.

The pictures, which were recently smuggled out of Iran from Government files, showed the faces of the dead, many of them horribly disfigured and with what appeared to be cigarette burns. The photographs were apparently taken by the Khomeini regime to be used as proof of the deaths for relatives.

Tehran radio said that millions of demonstrators had converged on Tehran's Azadi Square. But Tehran residents contacted by telephone from London, estimated that only between 300,000 and 400,000 people, soldiers and Revolutionary Guards, had turned out to demonstrate their support for the ayatollah.

Israeli land seizure ruled legal

From Christopher Walker
Jerusalem, Feb 11

The Israeli High Court has upheld the military Government's practice of seizing "state lands" in the occupied West Bank, the main tactic now being used to create Jewish settlements and to expand those established.

The judgment yesterday was given in response to an appeal by Palestinian villages against recent land confiscation. Diplomatic observers regard the verdict as marking the final stage in the attempt by West Bankers to use the High Court and Israeli law to curb expansion of the settlements.

Justice Meir Shamgar, in a written judgment, also sanctioned the status of the three-man military advisory committee which is charged with reviewing claims of local Arabs who challenge land confiscation by the military.

Most land in the area has not been adequately surveyed and parcelled out since Turkish rule ended in 1917, leaving large areas registered under the name of their practical owners. These people enjoyed unlimited, tradeable rights under the old Ottoman system while nominal ownership remained in the hands of state officials.

The Israelis have been relying on "state land" to increase settlements since October, 1979, when the High Court ordered the dismantling of the settlement at Elon Moreh because it was built on private land for political rather than security reasons. First, it is declared "state land" by the military Government and then seized from its practical owners even if it is under cultivation.

□ Amman: Mr Casper Weinberger, the United States Defence Secretary, discussed increased military cooperation with Jordan during his second day of talks here with officials (AFP reports).

Haig raises Moroccan arms hopes

Marrakesh, Feb 11. — Mr Alexander Haig, the American Secretary of State, arrived here today for talks with King Hassan, expected to include a promise of substantially increased arms sales to Morocco.

Mr Haig praised the traditional friendship between the two countries when he was met on his arrival from Portugal by Mr Maati Bouaid, the Prime Minister, and Mr Muhammad Bouetta, the Foreign Minister.

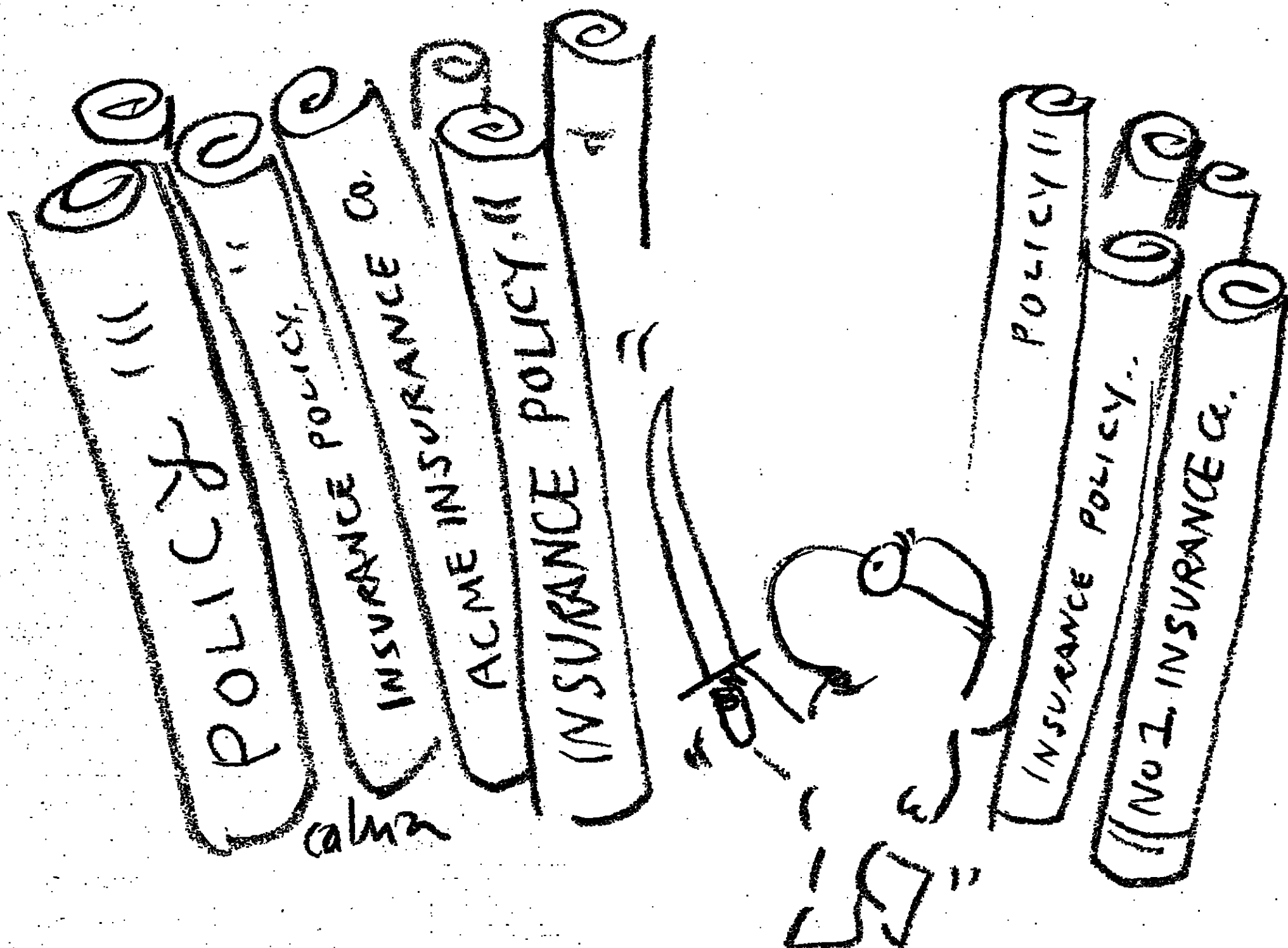
Officials accompanying Mr Haig said the United States planned a big increase in arms sales credits to Morocco, in addition to the \$30m (£16m) approved for the current financial year. Some of the sales were expected to be financed at concessional or extremely low interest rates.

Rabat appealed for military aid in November after an attack by Polisario guerrillas in Western Sahara, the former Spanish colony now administered by Morocco. The Moroccans said the guerrillas had used Soviet-made missiles to shoot down three of their aircraft.

The United States has remained neutral on the question of sovereignty over the territory, and has called for a negotiated settlement through the Organization of African Unity. But it does not recognize the guerrillas and has allowed Morocco to use American military equipment against them.

The officials said that apart from the Sahara dispute, Mr Haig wanted to review developments in the Middle East with King Hassan and to brief him on United States relations with the Soviet Union.

Mr Haig's visit, which was to have taken place last December but was postponed because of the Polish crisis, follows a series of recent visits by high-ranking American officials. — Reuter



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NEWS IN SUMMARY

Coups trial date set in Madrid

Madrid. — The Spanish Defence Ministry has announced that the court martial of 32 officers and one civilian for their part in the attempted coup a year ago will begin in Madrid on February 20.

The civilian is included, although it is a military trial, because it is considered a military offence. Prominent among the accused are Lieutenant-Colonel Antonio Tejero, who led about 300 members of the paramilitary Civil Guard police in a take-over of the parliament at gunpoint; Lieutenant-General Jaime Milans del Bosch, who was military district commander of Valencia, put tanks in the streets; Lieutenant-General Alfonso Armada Comyn, deputy chief of staff of the Army; and Major-General Luis Torres Rojas, former commander of the Brunete armoured division some of whose units took part.

Soviet embassy apologizes

Lisbon. — The Soviet embassy in Lisbon, apparently worried that more of its diplomats might be expelled, has issued a rare public apology over its recent comments on Portuguese politics. It said it had made "appropriate apologies" for a statement it issued at the weekend describing Senator Mario Soares, the Portuguese socialist opposition leader, as being mentally unbalanced and in need of prolonged treatment.

Rape victim, 12, gives birth

New York. — A rape victim aged 12 has given birth to a healthy girl and may be allowed to keep the child. She was denied an abortion by a juvenile court judge in Detroit. The girl was repeatedly raped by a man who lived with her mother. Her sister, aged 11, was also raped and both are now wards of the state.

The baby, weighing 5lb 9oz, was delivered by Caesarean section. Welfare agencies are anxious to keep the mother and child together but they will be separated if suitable accommodation cannot be found.

Cuba denies jet fighter claim

Havana. — President Castro has denied that Cuba had recently taken delivery of fighter jets from the Soviet Union. He told the opening session of the tenth World Federation of Trade Unions (WFTU) congress that there was no truth in United States media reports that the aircraft were of an "offensive nature" and therefore violated the United States-Soviet agreement which followed the October, 1962, missile crisis.

Dutch threaten Pretoria's oil

Amsterdam. — The Dutch coalition Government is to ask Dutch companies for a voluntary embargo, particularly in oil, against South Africa. Mr. Max van der Stoep, the Foreign Minister, told Parliament in The Hague. He said he would ask for voluntary steps pending mandatory sanctions which would solve the complex legal problems of the cooperation of Belgium and Luxembourg within the framework of the Benelux union.

May investigators question man

Rome. — Investigators dealing with the deaths of Mrs Jeanette May and her friend Mrs Gabriella Guerin, whose bodies were found near Camerino on January 27, have questioned a businessman, Signor Giorgio Gefis, for five hours. His name was found in the address book Mrs May left in her hotel room before her disappearance on November 29, 1980, and a photograph of him was found in her purse near the body.

Nationalization wins through in Paris

Paris. — The French Constitutional Court approved the revised Nationalization Bill passed by Parliament last week. With the signatures of the Prime Minister and President Mitterrand it becomes effective, and nationalizes five industrial groups and 39 banks (Charles Hargrove writes).

Terrorist link alleged

Walesa's guide held as Red Brigades suspect

From Peter Nichols, Rome, Feb 11

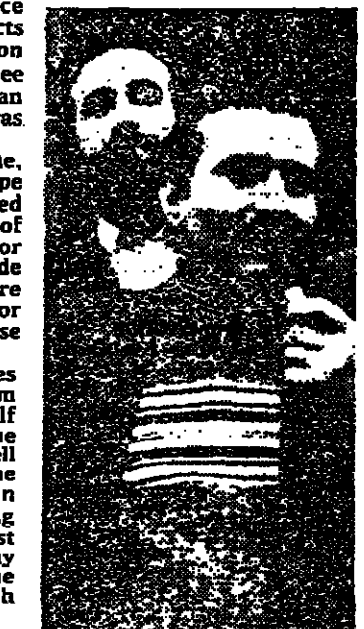
The Italian trade union official who invited Lech Walesa, the Solidarity leader, to Rome last February is being held for interrogation for suspected links with Red Brigades terrorists. His arrest has been seized on by the official press of Eastern Europe as proof that Mr Walesa had terrorist contacts.

Italian police last Thursday arrested Signor Luigi Scricciolo, director of the office dealing with foreign contacts of the UIL trade union movement, one of the three leading groups in Italian trade unionism. His wife was detained with him. Mr Walesa came to Rome, where he met the Pope during a much publicized visit, as an invited guest of the UIL group and Signor Scricciolo was his guide during the visit. A picture from that time shows Signor Scricciolo in a friendly pose with Mr Walesa.

Signor Scricciolo denies the allegations against him and said to regard himself as a victim of a Kafkaesque plot. Mr Walesa may well have grounds to feel that the Kafka element is stronger in the way the case is being manipulated for use against him because he, like many other trade unionists in the world, had been in touch with Signor Scricciolo.

Secrecy still surrounds the case, in accordance with Italian procedure, but Signor Scricciolo's arrest appears to have been a direct result of the freeing last week of Brigadier-General James Doretti from his terrorist captors in Padua.

One of the five people guarding the kidnapped general, Signor Antonio Savasta, is understood to have told investigators that Signor Scricciolo acted as intermediary between the Red Brigades and their suppliers of arms. He was also said to



It has been alleged that in 1979 Signor Scricciolo met the "strategic directorate" of the Red Brigades, the second highest body in the hierarchy of the terrorist movement. Signor Savasta is credited with 17 murders and was regarded as one of the most ferocious terrorists of the Brigades militant wing. This is this type of person who is accusing Signor Scricciolo and his wife, and no official versions of the interrogation of the couple.

Four Silesian miners jailed

From Roger Boyes, Warsaw, Feb 11

A Polish military court has sentenced four miners from the Wujek coalmine in Silesia to between three and four years in prison for organizing an occupation strike in the first days after the introduction of martial law.

The "pacification" of the Wujek mine in December was the most violent of the incidents during the past eight weeks of military rule — officials have admitted that seven miners were killed while resisting the police.

According to an official communiqué, the military court in Katowice passed sentence after several days of hearing evidence. Mr Stanislaw Platek, one of the strike leaders, was sentenced to four years' jail and three years' deprivation of civil rights. This ensures that he will not be eligible for the usual remission after serving two thirds of his sentence. He also has no right of appeal.

Another strike leader and fellow Solidarity member, Mr Jerzy Wartak was jailed for three years and six months, with suspension of civil rights for three years. Mr Adam Skwirra and Mr Marian Gluch, were given three-year terms. Four others were acquitted.

Mystery still surrounds the events in the Wujek mine in December 13 to 16. It is clear that several hundred miners staged an occupation strike both underground and at the pithead. Wives and children brought their food and supplies to their husbands. This later led the authorities to claim that a small group of "terrorists" were forcing wives and

have agreed to put them in touch with Soviet and other East European contacts. Since his arrest, reports of the accusations made against him have grown more serious. He is said to have met Italian terrorists on a Greek island in 1980. His cousin Loris Scricciolo, who is a confessed terrorist cooperating with the authorities, added fresh accusations to the list.

The first connexion in the East European press, according to reports here, was made by *Rude Pravo* in Prague, which pronounced the simple equation, Walesa knew him and therefore must have terrorist contacts.

The Polish press bases its accounts on a report by the official Polish news agency PAP. The agency points out that Signor Scricciolo and his wife had been to Poland several times and that their relations with Solidarity were close, especially with Mr Walesa in person. They are also said to have been in contact with other representatives of Solidarity.

The names given are Jacek Kuron, Karol Modzelewski and Krzysztof Slivinski, who had been head of the foreign relations department of Solidarity. All three were interned under the state of siege declared on December 13.

The Polish press points out the Signor Scricciolo and his wife have been active in pro-Solidarity demonstrations in Italy, having participated in sympathy for Solidarity but only in the sense that it fitted in with their plans. The question is raised of what the leaders of Solidarity really talked about with "these people tied to terrorists".

Signor Scricciolo apparently maintains that he had contacts with East European diplomats, but only as a routine part of his job.

England maintains lead in chess tournament

By Harry Golombek, Chess Correspondent

English players are still to the fore in the West European zonal tournament at Marbella, Spain. At the end of round 3 on Wednesday, Nigel Short was leading in Group A along with van der Wiel, the Dutch master, with two and a half points each, followed by John Nunn and two Spanish players, Fernandez and Gallego, with two points each.

Short appeared to have no advantage against Fernandez in round 4 for most of the game but suddenly launched a fierce mating attack that demolished his opponent when both sides were under time pressure. Nunn looked to be losing against Seret of France, but contrived to turn the game into a draw.

Other results: Gomez (An-

LABOUR MAY FIGHT EEC ELECTIONS

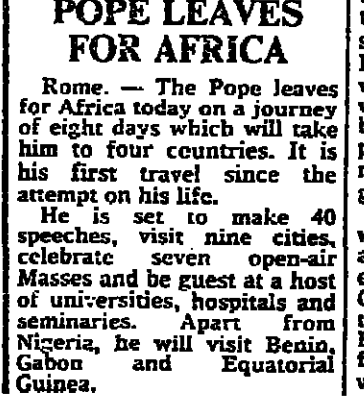
From Ian Murray, Brussels, Feb 11

The Labour Party is likely to contest the next direct elections to the European Parliament, Mr Michael Foot, the party leader, said after two days' discussions here with socialists from other European countries.

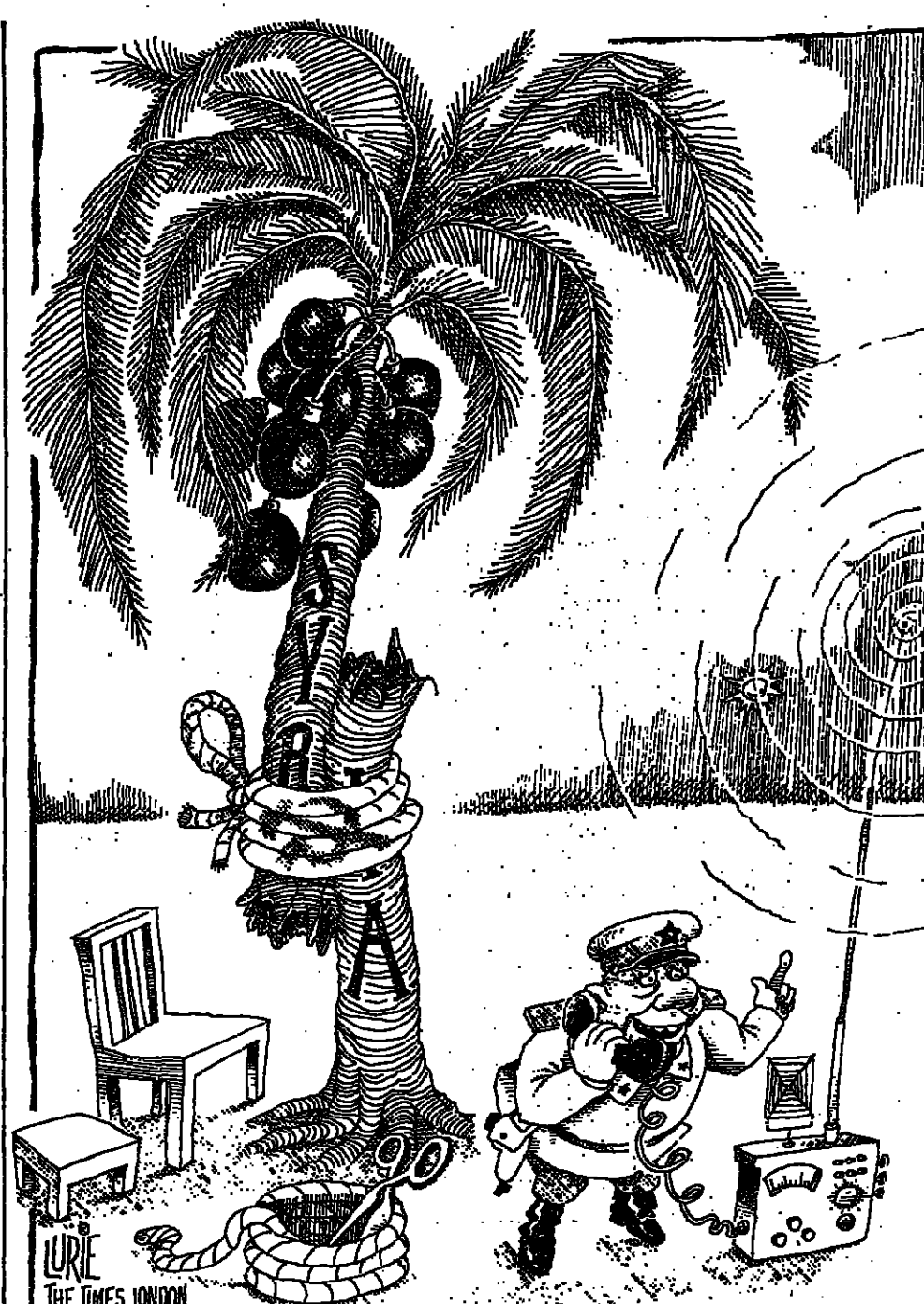
Throughout their visit Mr Foot and Mr Eric Heffer, Labour's spokesman on Europe, resisted all arguments from fellow socialists that it would be a great mistake to pull Britain out of the EEC. Nevertheless Mr Foot did listen to the argument that Labour should fight the 1984 Strasbourg elections.

When he saw the press yesterday evening he said flatly that there was no decision about direct elections, but Mr Heffer admitted that it was not a subject that had even been considered. Today, however, Mr Foot said that although there was no final decision, there was every likelihood it would be agreed that Labour would put up candidates "when we report back to our colleagues".

A decision to take part would be a realistic acknowledgement that, however quickly the next Labour Government acted in trying to withdraw from the EEC, Britain will still be a member for some time after the 1984 vote.



POPE LEAVES FOR AFRICA. — The Pope leaves for Africa today on a journey of eight days which will take him to four countries. It is his first travel since the attempt on his life. He is set to make 40 speeches, visit nine cities, celebrate seven open-air Masses and be guest at a host of universities, hospitals and seminars. Apart from Nigeria, he will visit Benin, Gabon and Equatorial Guinea.



"Don't worry, comrades — it's as good as new!"

Mauroy proclaims industrial peace

From Charles Hargrove, Paris, Feb 11

M. Pierre Mauroy, the Prime Minister, today claimed in a meeting with employers and trade unionists that he had settled problems connected with the shortening of the working week.

He made it clear that workers would be paid the same for a 39-hour week as they now get for 40 hours, confirming an about-face by President Mitterrand yesterday in a Cabinet meeting.

It is not conceivable, he said, that workers should earn less at the end of February than at the end of January, he told the press after the meeting. He welcomed what he called the mobilization of the workers in defence of social progress, a euphemism for spreading labour unrest.

It is ironic that measures designed to bring home the reality of Socialist change to shop floor workers has upset the unions and touched off a fortnight of labour unrest. The shorter working week, and fifth week of paid holiday, has also provoked the violent hostility of employers, whose cooperation is necessary to make it work.

The Government chose to ignore all the practical difficulties involved in the application of these measures in a country where working conditions vary from one region, one industry, and one firm to another.

It is a country where a multitude of special privileges and "perks". By comparison with which the British tea break pales into insignificance, are a jealously guarded heritage of the French



Anger over UN man's departure

By Our Foreign Staff

Delegates of most of the 43 countries represented in the United Nations Human Rights Commission in Geneva have now formally voiced their regrets that the Secretary has not renewed the mandate of Mr Theo van Boven, the Dutch director of the human rights division.

The main exceptions were Argentina, whose representative said Mr van Boven should leave with the utmost expedition, and Peru. In The Hague, the Dutch Parliament reacted angrily to his departure. A motion tabled by Mr Janmaat Scholten, the Christian Democrat chairman of the foreign affairs committee of the Lower House, Government to protest to the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

According to United Nations sources in New York, a number of personal differences with Senator Javier Perez de Cuellar, the Secretary-General, came to a head last week apparently led to Mr van Boven's resignation. He had on several occasions criticized Senator Perez de Cuellar for his handling of a confidential inquiry into human rights violations in Uruguay. Then an Under-Secretary General for special political affairs, Senator Perez de Cuellar undertook a mission to Uruguay in 1979. During that time he apparently made no attempt to contact the Government's opponents.

Koch war of words upsets UN

From Michael Hamlyn, New York, Feb 11

Mr Edward Koch, the Mayor of New York, was in an Irish public house last night for the launch of an Irish television show. At the end of a little impromptu address he said: "I've said it before and I'll say it again", eyeing *The Times* correspondent, "England get out of Ireland".

A similar lack of subtlety attended an earlier foray into foreign affairs when he reacted to the United Nations vote to isolate Israel for the annexation of the Golan Heights.

Addressing his Jewish constituents he railed against the quotation from Isaiah which dignifies a wall opposite the United Nations: "They shall beat their swords into ploughshares and their spears into pruning hooks, nation shall not lift up sword against nation". It needed amendment. An additional quotation should be added: "With a reference to hypocrisy, immorality and cowardice".

Mr Koch has announced that he is considering running for Governor of New York State.

The Isaiah wall is a rather sad place. It is where demonstrators gather, hoping to bring their protests to public attention, or at least to the attention of the United Nations. The protesters are by and large ignored, however, and many a hunger striker, has left the place convinced that the thirty-eighth floor of the great glass building opposite, where senior officials are lavishly housed, is simply too far away.

The mayor's proposal on the other hand has caused an attack of apoplexy at the United Nations, which has started talking about upping sticks, and moving elsewhere.

Herr Jans Janitschek, a senior official said: "He can say what he likes, but if he puts it on the wall across the street that is going too far. If the Mayor of New York and the people of New York want us out of New York we would have to consider it very seriously."

The economic effects of the United Nations moving out of New York would of course be dramatic. But Mr Koch responded: "Money is of little consequence as it relates to honour and integrity."

E Germany eases rules on travel to West

From Patricia Clough, Bonn, Feb 11

East Germany announced today it was extending the list of occasions on which East Germans may be allowed to visit close relatives in the West.

The move was seen here as the first tangible result of last December's talks between Herr Helmut Schmidt, the West German Chancellor, and Herr Erich Honecker, the East German leader, by Lake Werbellin, in East Germany.

The Chancellor pressed Herr Honecker to make it easier for East and West Germans to visit each other and to lift the harsh currency regulations, which, for many West Germans make a visit to the East prohibitively expensive.

According to leaks, appar-

Thousands strike in cell death protest

From Michael Hornsby, Johannesburg, Feb 11

Tens of thousands of black workers downed tools for up to 30 minutes in factories and over South Africa today in protest against the death in prison of Dr Neil Aggett, a leading white trade unionist.

Dr Aggett, who was 29, was found hanging by a scarf from an iron grill behind the door of his cell at security police headquarters here early last Friday.

The message, which from first reports appears to have passed off peacefully, was called for by Dr Aggett's own union, the African Food and Canning Workers' Union, of which he was the Transvaal secretary. He was one of only three whites working for the union, which claims to have more than 22,000 members.

The call was supported by virtually all independent black unions which joined in a black-bordered poster to their members urging them to "stop work to mourn our dead brother Neil Aggett, killed in detention".

The use of the word "killed" reflects the widespread refusal to accept the claim by Dr Aggett's committee that the outrage at Dr Aggett's death had cut across racial lines with white opposition politicians, lawyers, and academics lending their voices to demands for the ending of prolonged detention without trial in solitary confinement.

Here have said it was "tantamount to torture". The Government says such measures are necessary to combat terrorism and communism.

At an emotional meeting of protest in the streets in front of the University of Witwatersrand, the country's largest English-language university, 1,200 students and staff heard Professor D. J. Du Plessis, the principal and vice-chancellor, declare: "A civilized nation should not allow this type of outrage."

Professor Du Plessis said the meeting had been called to pay tribute "to one who lost his life in the pursuit of an ideal". The fact that this ideal was not shared by those in power was no reason for him to die. Whatever the cause of his death, it had been a result of a method of detention which did not belong in a civilized country.

Students, who number about 200 out of a total of more than 13,000 joined their white colleagues in demanding that those detained under the security laws should either be released or charged.

Mr Jeremy Clark, the president of the white student body, said it was the first time the university had come out "in support of trade unions and the working class".

An unusual feature of the brief strike was the tacit support of most employers, including Barlow Rand, the country's biggest industrial group, and the Anglo-American Corporation, its biggest mining and financial conglomerate. So far only one big concern, Anglo-Sago pulp and paper group, has threatened to dock the pay of workers who took part in the stoppage.

Many employers, worried about possible government reaction, solved their dilemma by bringing the lunch hour forward, or extending the morning tea break.

Some of the strongest support came in the traditionally militant motor industry around Port Elizabeth and Uitenhage in the Eastern Cape and in Pretoria. A spokesman for the Federation of South African Trade Unions claimed that about 20,000 workers had stopped work in the Eastern Cape alone.

The stoppages varied from five to 30 minutes and often included prayers and the singing of "Nkosi Sikelel' i Africa" ("God Bless Africa") which has become something of a black nationalist anthem.

In a footnote to today's events, newspapers here reported the promotion of Assistant Commissioner of Police in Port Elizabeth, who was in charge of security police in Port Elizabeth in 1977 at the time of the death in detention there of Mr Steve Biko.

Farewell to Paris

Sir Reginald Hibbert, the British Ambassador in France, leaving the Elysée Palace yesterday after a farewell luncheon with President Mitterrand. Sir Reginald is to retire next week.

Sadat pi to be free

Cairo. — The Egyptian President, Anwar el-Sadat, is to be free to travel abroad after a suspension of his freedom of movement.

Taxis for e

Sendal. — Taxis are soon to be available in the town of Sendal, after a long period of unavailability.

Chad

The Chad government has announced that it will be holding a conference to discuss the future of the country.

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NEWS IN SUMMARY

Change in Deng role denied

Peking. — The Chinese Foreign Ministry denied that there had been any change in the status of Mr Deng Xiaoping, who has not been seen in public for a month (David Bonavia writes).

The ministry said that Mr Deng was still a vice-chairman of the Communist Party and chairman of the party's military affairs commission. It did not give any explanation for his prolonged absence from public view, unprecedented in the past four years.

Grave doubts about Mr Deng's position were raised last weekend when Mr Wan Li, the Deputy Prime Minister, told Reuters that he had moved "from the first rank to the second rank" and was now "not consulted" on matters of importance. Observers feel this did not accurately describe the highly active pattern of Mr Deng's political work until last month.

Coca Cola ban is altered

Corno. — An Italian magistrate has lifted a countrywide ban on the sale of Coca Cola which he imposed on Monday after a young man who drank half a canful became seriously ill. The magistrate said his order will now apply only to canned Coca Cola produced in the Sonbil factory near Verona on June 12, 16 and 18 last year.

A Coca Cola spokesman in Milan said that all of the cans produced by Sonbil on those three days have already been sold and consumed. A magistrate in Italy has the power to order action covering the whole country.

Sadat prisoners to be freed

Cairo. — The state council has ordered the immediate suspension of the late President Sadat's order last September jailing 1,536 people as part of a drive against "confessionalism".

The move was expected to lead to the rapid release of 1,054 people still detained. At the same session, the council rejected an application to remove from office the Coptic Pope, Shenoda III.

Taxi for export

Sandai, Japan. — London taxis are soon to ply their trade here. They are wanted because they are bigger than local models. They cost eight times as much.

18 die in bus crash

Manila. — A bus plunged off a mountain road into a 150-ft ravine in the northern Philippines, killing 18 of the 36 people on board.

Mugabe orders big expansion of secret police

From Stephen Taylor, Salisbury, Feb 11

The Zimbabwe Parliament had approved an increase in spending on security and intelligence gathering operations of more than 20 per cent.

The increase in the amount voted for the Central Intelligence Organisation from \$29.6m to \$211.7m was to cover additional manpower, Mr Robert Mugabe, the Prime Minister, told the House of Assembly. He did not expand but sources confirmed that the organization was to embark on an extensive recruiting programme.

No explanation has been forthcoming on why the organization is to be expanded but Mr Mugabe and other government leaders believe that the police and army have been infiltrated by South African agents.

It was disclosed today that James Holt, a former Police Inspector convicted of possessing weapons of war, had jumped bail and fled to South Africa. Holt, who was appealing against a two-month sentence of two months, crossed to South Africa by car with his wife on Tuesday.

Incidents like this, and the escape of Captain Frank Serikwe, an alleged spy, from custody apparently with the assistance of an investigating policeman, have fuelled government suspicions. The Central Intelligence Organisation comes under the Prime Minister's office, having absorbed the functions of the former police special branch, and now covers all aspects of security.

Nkomo under fire for arms finds

The Discovery of large weapons caches on property owned by the main opposition party and the subsequent bearing of Mr Joshua Nkomo, its leader, had imposed the most severe strain on the coalition Government since the factional clashes which claimed 300 lives in Matabeleland a year ago.

It is clear a week after the first finds that anger and suspicion in the ruling Zanu (PF) Party have if anything grown, largely because of Mr Nkomo's refusal to distance himself effectively from what is seen as a conspiracy against the Government.

An editorial in today's *Herald* newspaper, which bore the clear stamp of approval from the top, but Zanu (PF)'s case succinctly. The events of the past week, it said, had cast doubts on Mr Nkomo's integrity as a national leader and his commitment to national unity.

It added, in what appeared an attempt to isolate him

form his senior aides: "Zanu (Patriotic Front) ministers cannot have it both ways. They should either dissociate themselves or resign. Their silence is not enough."

Mr Nkomo's failure to urge his supporters to cooperate with the authorities in uncovering further caches, or even to announce an internal investigation by the party, has puzzled observers. When, exactly a year ago, heavy fighting broke out between his Zipra guerrillas and Zanu forces loyal to Mr Robert Mugabe, Mr Nkomo's diplomacy in calming his supporters was a crucial factor in bringing Zimbabwe back from the brink of civil war.

This week, with the spectre of Entumbane once more a haunting presence, his reputation in the army circles has been beset by resentment rather than remorse.

It has long been clear that Zipra guerrillas withheld a substantial quantity of their Soviet weaponry in the disarming process last year. Mr Nkomo must have been aware of that whether or not he knew arms were stashed on Patriotic Front property. His claim to be heartbroken from a tongue-lashing by Mr Mugabe has a rather hollowing ring.

While the anger within Zanu (PF) is no doubt real enough, the episode could help Mr Mugabe to put pressure on Mr Nkomo to agree to a merger between the two parties. The proposal, Mr Nkomo has said, is the foundation stone for Mr Mugabe's envisaged one-party state, has been tossed around for months, watched warily by Mr Nkomo who repeated last month that he thought unification talks premature.

That position might now become difficult to maintain, especially if Mr Nkomo's lieutenants such as Mr Josiah Chinamano, the Minister of Transport, show any willingness to go down the road with Zanu (PF). *The Herald* editorial suggests that the pressure will be there and there are signs of cracks in Patriotic Front unity.

The episode is likely to claim some casualties. An interview on Monday between Mr Mugabe and senior army officers, formerly associated with Zipra, who were asked about further caches, is understood to have been a brutally frank affair and a shake-up in the military is on the cards. Searches since then of other farms owned by the Patriotic Front have revealed more weapons — bringing the number of caches to 32 — military vehicles and medical supplies.



Lida Vashchenko (second left) rejoining her family at the American Embassy in Moscow.

Moscow hunger strikers reunited

Moscow, Feb 11. — Miss Lida Vashchenko, the Siberian Pentecostalist, was reunited with her family yesterday in the United States Embassy, after treatment in a Moscow hospital for the effects of a month-long hunger strike.

A black embassy van carrying Miss Vashchenko and a brother and sister drove past Soviet police guards into the compound where they were met by their parents and two sisters. They embraced and wept in the courtyard before walking to the basement room where Lida, two sisters and her parents have lived since June 1978, while seeking Soviet exit visas.

Lida, who is 30, was released shortly after noon from Botkin hospital where she had been under treatment for almost two weeks. She was taken there by American officials who feared her life was in danger. She and her mother started the hunger strike during the Christmas holidays to protest against what they described as lack of United States pressure on the Soviet Government on their behalf.

A United States Embassy official said: "The Embassy has reason to be pleased with Soviet treatment of Lida from the time she was admitted to the hospital until today." The official said that the Soviet Government had been informed of their wish to visit their parents in the Embassy but that there had been no statement from the Russians that they would be permitted to enter. "We did not know they would be let in until they drove through the gate," the official said.

Vera Vashchenko, aged 25, and Alexander, her brother who is 22, arrived from the family home in Chernogorsk on Wednesday and later visited Lida in the hospital. They accompanied her, with an American diplomat, in the embassy car for the family reunion.

Miss Ludov Vashchenko said Lida, Vera and Alexander had obtained air tickets with the help of United States diplomats and planned to fly to Chernogorsk this morning, earlier than previously planned.

Ludov said the family was very

surprised that Soviet authorities allowed the reunion to take place on embassy grounds. She said that American diplomats told her minutes before the meeting that the reunion would have to occur at the compound gate.

Lida, on her return to Chernogorsk, plans to apply for permission to emigrate, meeting conditions set by the Soviet authorities.

She said she was convinced the United States Government has done all it could to help them. Mrs Vashchenko told reporters she planned to stop her protest fast after she receives confirmation that Lida, Vera and Alexander are safely back in Chernogorsk.

Lida said she was well treated at the hospital and her health was good. However, she said she would start another hunger strike in Chernogorsk if her demand for an exit visa was not met.

Asked if she regarded the reunion as a breakthrough Ludov replied: "I would like to hope, because of the good treatment shown to Lida — AP."

Afghan Army's collapse

Russians fight a losing battle

Karan Thapar reports from Kabul in the last of three articles on conditions in Afghanistan

Two years after the installation of Mr Babrak Karmal as President of Afghanistan, his Government is still dependent on the Soviet Army for its survival at a cost to Russia estimated by some diplomats at an average of \$500,000 a day.

The original Russian force of 100,000 soldiers which crossed into Afghanistan in December, 1979, has possibly increased to about 120,000 while the traditional Afghan Army of 100,000 has shrunk to just 30,000. Diplomats believe the Afghan security forces total no more than 45,000 to 50,000, of which about 18,000 are said to be police and 5,000 paramilitary.

The extent to which the Soviet Union has taken over control of Afghanistan is emphasized by the fact that for nearly five months Maj General Muhammad Rafie, the Afghan Defence Minister, his Deputy Defence Minister and commander of the Kabul garrison, Colonel Khalilullah, the chief of the Air Force, have been "visiting" Moscow on higher training courses while a supposed civil war rages at home.

It is the estimated 25 Soviet generals, under the command of Marshal Sergei Sokolov, First Deputy Defence Minister, who are ultimately responsible for the country. For its part, the Afghan Army has virtually collapsed. A compulsory recruitment drive last summer, requiring all men under 25 to report for a second spell of military service, appears to have failed. The Government hoped to increase its armed forces to about 200,000, but diplomats report that eligible Afghans appear to be fleeing rather than register for service. Several embassies have had their Afghan staff leave for "the shelter of the hills", with the Americans losing 20 men in one month.

This exodus has led to generous salaries and inducements offered by the Government. An Afghan soldier is today paid 5,000 afghanis (£50) per month, compared to 400 six months ago, on top of

free accommodation, food, medical facilities, uniforms and family care. If he should opt for a second year of service, his salary is doubled to 10,000.

Yet so poor has the response been that an estimated 10,000 men due for discharge in December are believed to have been kept on.

The Soviet authorities cannot, and do not, trust the Afghan Army. One of the reasons why the 10,000 have not been released is the fear that they will at once join the mujahidin and take with them their knowledge and experience of security training. This is why the Soviet Army has been forced to accept responsibility for the security of the regime and the maintenance of law and order.

About 12 divisions of Soviet soldiers have positioned themselves along a Y-shaped formation, its stem spanning the Kabul-Jalalabad sector, and its curving arm from Herat to Kandahar. Of these 12 divisions, 10 are believed to be motorized infantry while two are airborne.

They are based at Kunduz and Mazar-i-Sharif in the north (16 Motor Division); Jalalabad in the south-east (201 Motor Rifle Division); Kabul (360 and 225 Motor Rifle Divisions); Kandahar in the south (137 Motor Rifle Division); Ghazni in the south-east (275 Motor Rifle Division); Herat in the west (54 Motor Rifle Division); at Sind Dand in the west (66 Motor Rifle Division); and at Bagram in the centre (103 Motor Rifle Division).

The two airborne divisions are based in Kabul (105 Airborne) and Bagram (104 Airborne).

According to certain sources, the 10 infantry divisions have an average strength of 10,000 men each, and the airborne divisions 8,000 each, making an approximate total of 120,000 Soviet soldiers in the

country. Other analysts put the total variously from 110,000 to the American State Department figure of just 90,000.

Military analysts believe the infantry divisions are well-equipped, disciplined and in good training. They have T59, T62, T72 and certain types of "Bridge-link" tanks, and BMP and BMD1 armoured personnel carriers. The airborne divisions have MiG 21, MiG 23 and SU 17 aircraft, helicopter gunships and AN 12 and AN 22 transport aircraft.

What little remains of the Afghan Army is thinly spread across the 14 divisions it attempts to maintain. Eleven of these are infantry and three are armoured. Two (the 7 and 12 Infantry) are in the Kabul area, the 12 Infantry at Gardez, the 11 at Jalalabad, the 9 at Chugha Serai in Balkh, the 19 at Herat, the 18 at Mazar-i-Sharif and the 20 at Mahrin in Baghlan. Of the three armoured divisions, two (the 4 and 15) are again in Kabul and the other (the 7) in Kandahar.

With an average of barely 2,500 men per division, these are nominal fighting units at best. Their morale is low, desertion high and training inadequate. Even in the officer corps indiscipline is said to be rife and mutual distrust widespread.

The fight against the mujahidin is therefore an operation principally conducted by Soviet troops. Military analysts believe that, to give themselves a first-strike advantage, the Russians are organizing themselves into small, surprise-attack squads with airborne power enabling them to "pounce" onto pockets of mujahidin resistance. Hitherto the open convoys of Soviet armour were a sitting target for mujahidin snipers from the shelter of the hills.

Where Afghan soldiers are deserting, reports that they are pushed to the front, with Soviet troops behind them, to ensure they do not desert or defect before the first shot is fired.

Kidnapped Filipino flees press conference

From David Watts, Singapore, Feb 11

Mr Tommy Manotoc, the Filipino sportsman said to have been held by communist guerrillas for six weeks before his rescue on Monday, had to be led out of a press conference in the family home in Manila today only two minutes after it had begun.

He looked pale, upset and emotional and was led away after telling journalists that he had nothing more to say "as far as my horrifying experience is concerned." He kept the press waiting for an hour at the beginning of the conference and began by saying: "As you can see I still am not fully recovered from my experience. I have not slept well, I have not eaten well."

Friends of the family said Mr Manotoc had had a heated discussion with his brother Ricardo before the press conference about what might be said. Family members contacted by telephone have been extremely guarded. The police installed a tape recorder on one of the Manotoc telephones soon after his disappearance only three weeks after marrying President Marcos's 23-year-old daughter Imee.

Mr Manotoc's reticence today only confirms doubts about the authenticity of his claim he had been held by the communist New People's Army. Those doubts were reinforced today by a statement sent to the foreign press by the National Democratic Front which has contacts with the illegal communist movement in the Philippines. The statement denied that the New People's Army had had anything to do with his disappearance.

Mr Manotoc could not bring himself to say what had happened since his return from the mountains east of Manila, where he says the guerrillas had been holding him. When it became apparent that he was about to break down his father stepped forward and led him away to his room upstairs in the two-storey Manotoc home.

One of the most extraordinary aspects of his six-week disappearance has been the calm, relaxed, even radiant, appearance of his new bride, who appeared at public functions with all her usual poise and grace.

Also not fully explained is the fact that a note supposedly sent from Mr Manotoc by his kidnappers was written in a language he never used with his family and signed "Tom" in a way he had not written for years.

Mr Manotoc Sr said after the press conference that his son had been in no condition to talk to reporters, saying: "It's straining what he went through" (AP reports). Asked if the family had changed its belief that the Marcoses were behind the kidnapping, he said: "I think it's hard to change the facts."

CORRECTION

Japan Airlines has not enjoyed an accident-free record for the past 10 years, as stated in February 10 although it has had no fatal accidents in Japan in that time.

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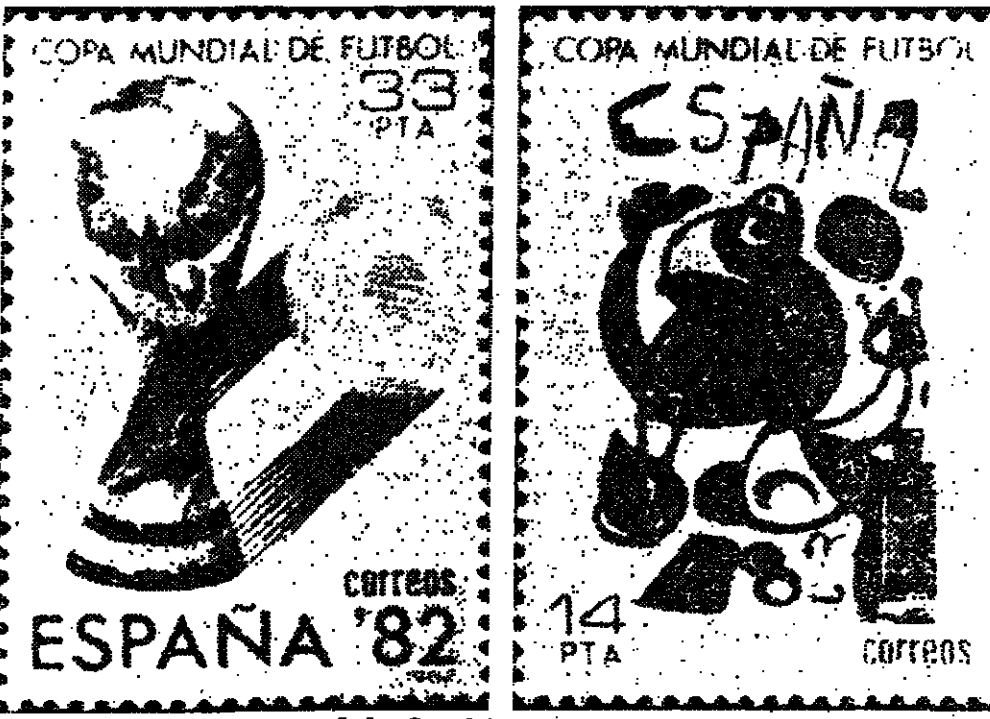
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£150 Perpetuities a loved name by inscribing it on the Dedication Plaque of the Day Centre it helps.



Fan mail: These are two of the Spanish stamps which will go on sale later this month for the World Cup football finals. One shows Joan Miró's poster design for the competition and the other a picture of the cup.

Chad leader told to talk peace

From Charles Harrison, Nairobi, Feb 11

President Goukouni Oueddei of Chad clashed with other African leaders, at a meeting today of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU), which called for him to negotiate a ceasefire in Chad by the end of the month.

The OAU has also called for talks on a new national constitution for Chad, followed by elections for the legislature and the presidency by June 30, which has been set as a deadline for the withdrawal of the OAU peacekeeping force from Chad.

President Goukouni, who had tried without success to involve the force in the civil war, arrived here late yesterday after at first declining to travel to Nairobi for the OAU meeting.

He was not present when the 11-nation conference opened, but joined the other African leaders, under the chairmanship of President Moi of Kenya later in the evening.

Conference sources said there were angry scenes when the Chad leader interrupted President Shagari of Nigeria who was calling for reconciliation in Chad. Presi-

dent Sekou Toure of Guinea, the most senior of the leaders present, rounded on President Goukouni and reminded him that the concern of the meeting was for peace in Africa.

The conference resolution was drawn up despite strong objection from President Goukouni, who insisted that the meeting should restrict itself to the financing and maintenance of the peacekeeping force, and the support of his interim Government.

Closing the conference today, President Moi said the problem in Chad was a political one that could be solved only by its own people. President Goukouni was not present when he made this remark, but his press secretary told reporters later: "We did not participate in the final session. We are not bound by the decisions of the conference."

Yesterday, the Kenyan leader gave warning of the importance of the meeting. A report from Mr Edem Kodjo, the OAU Secretary-General, said the cost of maintaining the force in Chad would be \$162.9m (£87m) a year — a figure far too high for African countries to carry.

Only Nigeria, Senegal and Zaïre have so far sent troops for the 3,000-man force. But President Moi said Benin, Togo and Guinea were now preparing to send in troops. He appealed to friendly countries, in Africa and elsewhere, to help to meet the cost.

Civil war has been going on in Chad for the past 20 years, mainly between President Goukouni and Mr Hissène Habré, his former Finance Minister. Libya has supported the President, while Mr Habré has had support from Sudan.

A large Libyan force was in Chad until late last year, when it was withdrawn after pressure from the OAU, and was replaced by a hastily-assembled OAU force — the first such force it has formed.

The OAU has encountered serious difficulties since it moved into Chad in December. One of its problems has been President Goukouni's call for the OAU to intervene in the fighting between his forces and those of Mr Habré, which have occupied some areas of eastern Chad since the departure of the Libyans. Other problems have been financial and logistical.

Vietnamese plane forced down in Thailand

From Neil Kelly, Bangkok, Feb 11

A Vietnamese military aircraft with 13 men on board made a forced landing in Thailand today 125 miles east of Bangkok and 18 miles from the Cambodian border.

The aircraft was intercepted by a Thai F5E fighter aircraft after crossing the border and being forced to land in a rice field.

A Thai military spokesman said that one of the Vietnamese military on board was killed in the incident and three injured. Nine others were being questioned at a military base nearby. An Air Force captain was the most senior of the Vietnamese.

A Western military attaché in Bangkok said the aircraft had possibly been "pallet bombing" Khmer Rouge guerrillas near the Thai border, an action in which bombs are placed on pallets and then thrown from the doors of the aircraft.

Senior Thai military officers have been anxious about

increased Vietnamese air activity on the border fearing that an incident might develop into something more serious. Another AN26 aircraft violated Thai airspace six days ago.

The border near the spot where the aircraft force-landed today has been tense for the past three weeks with Vietnamese artillery shells dropping on Thai territory almost every day. At least six Thai civilians have been killed and about 20 wounded in the past fortnight.

Vietnam has committed two divisions of fresh troops to the continuing battle with Khmer Rouge guerrillas, according to Lieutenant-General Som Kattapan, Supreme Command spokesman. Extra artillery including 155mm guns have been brought in. Yesterday, Thailand circulated a letter at the United Nations General Assembly in New York complaining of Vietnamese shelling.

HORNS OF A MILITARY DILEMMA

Bonn, Feb 11. — Sexual frustration is threatening one of Britain's most cherished military traditions.

The sex-starved victim is Billy, an angora goat aged four and a half, presented to the 1st Battalion Royal Welch Fusiliers by the Queen.

Lieutenant Kevin Broadfoot, said from the battalion's base in Lemgo that the frustrated Billy had broken a horn of the bars of his pen.

Unfortunately, on St David's Day, March 1, Billy should have preceded the battalion's corps of drums around the officers' mess for the toast to the patron saint of Wales.

The fracture ruled this out, and Lieutenant Broadfoot's frantic search for a replacement has come up with an offer from Cologne Football Club, whose mascot is a goat.

But if the animal proves unsuitable a soldier may have to take Billy's place. — Reuters.

PARLIAMENT February 11 1982

Plan to get UK to need fewer imports

ECONOMY

The Department of Industry is to set up a continuing exhibition entitled "Can you make it?" to encourage British manufacturers to make goods currently imported, Mrs Thatcher, the Prime Minister, announced at a question time in the Commons.

Mrs Barry Jones (East Flint, Lab) had asked if Mrs Thatcher understood the alarm which was being sounded by those who represented areas of high unemployment that full employment was now less than 10 months away.

Why does the permit (he asked) the destruction of British industry?

Mrs Thatcher: The Department of Industry is embarking on what I hope will be a successful policy, of having an exhibition called "Can you make it?" (Labour laughter). The Opposition are not interested in getting more jobs. They prefer to complain about the level of unemployment. (Conservative cheers).

A continuing exhibition will be set up so that manufacturers who import components can see what they import. Then we can ask other manufacturers in Britain if they can make them. We can get into substitution which should lead to more jobs. This is constructive and on this

side we hope it will be successful. (Renewed Conservative cheers.)

Both the Prime Minister and Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, were questioned about the speech of Sir Ian Gilmour, the former Lord Privy Seal, who had argued for expansion and attacked Treasury ministers for "excessive repression of half truths".

Sir Ian had told Conservative graduates on Wednesday that the depression was slowly destroying parts of Britain which were crying out for massive renewal.

Mr William Hamilton (Central Fife, Lab) said Sir Ian's speech referred to Mrs Thatcher's policies as bringing larger parts of Britain to their knees. Does she accept those strictures (he asked) and believe there is still no alternative to her policies or is she intending to take a U-turn within a few weeks?

Mrs Thatcher: It would be accurate to say that Sir Ian and I are not wholly at accord in these matters. (Laughter).

Mr David Winnick (Walsall, North, Lab) also asked if the Chancellor had studied the speech by Sir Ian Gilmour in which he called for urgent Government action to save large areas of Britain from economic destruction and spoke of Treasury half truths?

Sir Ian was reflecting, he went on, the views of most British

people who reject with contempt the Government's economic policy which has brought economic destruction to so many parts of the country.

Sir Geoffrey Howe: Mr Winnick is wholly mistaken in his analysis of the situation. The Government's policies have been, are, and will continue to be directed to laying the foundations of sustainable economic growth, maintaining the battle against inflation and reversing unemployment.

A Conservative MP asked the Chancellor of the "monetarist experiment" could be continued for a further year, which would be a 12 per cent "without a further intolerable rise in the number of unemployed".

Sir Geoffrey Howe told Mr Hugh Dwyer (Harrow, East, C): He should not talk in terms of monetarist experiment (Labour laughter) — since the importance of monetarist policy has been fundamental to economic growth since the 1970s in this country since the lessons imposed upon the last administration by the International Monetary Fund in 1976.

Mr Peter Shore, Chief Opposition spokesman on Treasury and economic affairs (Tower Hamlets, Stepney and Poplar, Lab) asked if the Chancellor would take the scale and reach the level of either employment or output which this country

enjoyed three years ago before he became Chancellor?

Sir Geoffrey Howe: All countries around the world have had a sustained reduction of economic activity, not least because of the huge increase in oil prices in 1973. It would be a very difficult task, although perhaps it is too much to expect, to welcome the fact that output has been moving in the right direction since the middle of last year.

Mr Shore: The Chancellor's own philosophy makes him equate expansion with inflation and unemployment and gives way to someone who has more forward-looking policies there is no hope of getting expansion.

Sir Geoffrey Howe: It is not a question of my philosophy. It is because during the seventies monetary demand rose by almost 350 per cent and real output by only one-twentieth of that. It is manifest to most observers that inflation, reflation and expansion of monetary demand is no way to improve the economy.

Thatcher and Gilmour: Not wholly in accord.

Mr Richard Wainwright, Liberal spokesman on Treasury and economic affairs (Colne Valley, Lab) asked if the Chancellor would consider the possibility of a recovery in output which started in 1981. An assessment of economic prospects will be published as usual with the budget on March 9.

Mr Peter Shore, Chief Opposition spokesman on Treasury and economic affairs (Tower Hamlets, Stepney and Poplar, Lab) asked if the Chancellor would take the scale and reach the level of either employment or output which this country

Bill to curb poaching of deer

SCOTLAND

At present a poacher in Scotland could expect to sell the carcass of a stag for £100 and if caught and convicted he faced a maximum fine of £20. Lord Glenarthur (C) said when he moved the second reading of the Deer (Amendment) (Scotland) Bill.

He said that the Bill sought to put that situation right and to make poaching a much less profitable exercise.

Historically, the deer problem in Scotland had been mainly concerned with red deer. The number of red deer was increased from an estimated 185,000 in 1970 to 255,000 by the end of 1979.

Three other species were present in Scotland in significant numbers: roe, sika and fallow. To those concerned with damage caused by roe, roe had become as much a problem as red deer.

There had been a considerable increase of commercial forestry in Scotland.

It was of considerable importance to ensure that forestry owners had adequate legal powers, coupled with adequate checks on those powers, to kill deer when necessary, to protect their trees and to prevent the problem with roe deer at present. They were attractive and beautiful creatures and no one liked to see them more than he did.

The Bill would serve the interests of sportsmen, foresters and the general public.

He never ceased to be appalled by the extent and horrible nature of the damage caused by the cruelty so often involved.

Lord Northfield (Lab) said it was time to tighten up as hard as they could the poaching industry. He hoped the Deer Commission would adopt a strict code of practice for shooting at night.

He hoped they would not go too far in making it an offence to shoot at night. He was sure that the Bill would be a good one.

Viscountess Thorne (I) said that he was a registered venison dealer who had on occasion supplied the House of Lords with venison.

The Bill made a considerable step forward in licensing venison dealers. Their books would be open not only to inspection by the Red Deer Commission but by the police, which was an enormous step forward.

That, with the enhanced scale of penalties, was a firm and powerful blow struck against poaching.

Mr Lloyd (Havant and Waterlooville, Lab) said that he was a registered venison dealer. He had always been the case that costs in test cases were borne by the Government.

Charterers liable to pay Iraq tax on freight

Law Report February 12 1982

Charterers liable to pay Iraq tax on freight

A/S Brovigstank and Another v. Transocean Liners Ltd. (The "Gunda Brovig") Before Lord Denning, Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Eveleigh and Lord Justice Watkins [Judgment delivered February 11]

A tax charged by the Iraq authorities on shipowners in respect of the freight carried by their vessels, which docked in Iraq ports was a tax on freight rather than income, notwithstanding the fact that it was levied on a sliding scale which increased for each vessel owned by the same shipowner. The tax was called an Iraq port during a particular fiscal year, so the charterers were obliged under the charterparty to reimburse the owners for the tax. The tax had been made in respect of the tax.

The Court of Appeal dismissed an appeal by the charterers of the Gunda Brovig, Transocean Liners Ltd. and Oil Trade Anstalt from the decision of the House of Lords, which was a special case stated to the House of Lords by two arbitrators, Mr Cedric Barclay and Mr Michael Mobbs, which the charterers were liable to reimburse the owners, A/S Brovigstank and I/S Brovig for the tax paid in connection with the charterparty by the vessel Gunda Brovig loading in Iraq in December 1976.

Mr David Milmo for the charterers, Mr Timothy Clayton for the owners.

The MASTER OF THE ROLLS said that the issue was quite small in commercial terms but the point was of general importance to the shipping community. The Gunda Brovig was chartered to a Swiss charterer for a voyage to Iraq.

When a defendant was charged with an offence under the Criminal Law Act 1977, it was a question for the jury whether the defendant was acting in self-defence. It was a question for the jury whether the defendant was acting in self-defence. It was a question for the jury whether the defendant was acting in self-defence.

By section 3 of the Criminal Law Act 1977, it was a question for the jury whether the defendant was acting in self-defence. It was a question for the jury whether the defendant was acting in self-defence. It was a question for the jury whether the defendant was acting in self-defence.

Lord Justice Eveleigh and Lord Justice Watkins agreed.

Solicitors: Sinclair Roche & Temperley.

Walkers to work get PM's praise

PM's QUESTIONS

Two civil servants, one of whom walked 14 miles to work and the other 12 miles, during the Aslef strike, received a congratulatory letter from Mrs Margaret Thatcher, the Prime Minister, she disclosed at question time.

Mrs Thatcher told the House, amid Conservative cheers: "Many commuters are making heroic efforts to get into work and most of them are succeeding."

She was answering Mr Robin Squire (Havering, Hornchurch, C) who asked if she had considered the reported comment of Mr Albert Booth (Barrow in Furness, Lab) the Opposition's chief spokesman on transport, that he was fully behind Mr Buckton and the striking drivers.

I travelled in (he went on) with many of my constituents this morning in a remarkably comfortable journey on London Transport. Many of them would like to be behind Mr Buckton, albeit with a rather different aim. (Conservative cheers).

Mrs Thatcher: The people who have been made to suffer from the Aslef action are their fellow citizens and fellow trade unionists.

Mr Michael Foot, Leader of the Opposition (Ebbw Vale, Lab):

Does she not think the best course for the House is to wish success to the court of inquiry which is looking at this matter?

Mrs Thatcher: Industrial relations in Britain for the last 10 years have been a matter for ourselves, and so far as they are not able to do it is a matter for Aslef. One indeed hopes they will succeed in their efforts.

Mr David Steel, Leader of Liberal Party (Roxborough, Selkirk and Peebles, L): Now that the Labour Party has come out in support of the Aslef strike, it is important to make clear not just on behalf of the Government but overwhelmingly in this House, that the proper course of action in the dispute is to make use of the court of inquiry and not inflict any long-term damage to British Rail.

Mrs Thatcher: I agree. In so far as disputes are settled between employers and employees, the proper course is to go to Aslef and secure their services in resolving the dispute and cooperate with them to that end.

I travelled in (he went on) with many of my constituents this morning in a remarkably comfortable journey on London Transport. Many of them would like to be behind Mr Buckton, albeit with a rather different aim. (Conservative cheers).

Mrs Thatcher: The people who have been made to suffer from the Aslef action are their fellow citizens and fellow trade unionists.

Mr Michael Foot, Leader of the Opposition (Ebbw Vale, Lab):

reports which indicated that the time off for trade union activities given to civil servants was costing the country something like £14m a year?

This estimate (he said) is almost twice as much proportionately as costs for the private sector. A full investigation should be carried out.

Mrs Thatcher: I saw the newspaper report early in the week and I understand that his figure is correct. The agreement was signed in 1974. It is almost 10 years old. It is important to allow time off for both industrial relations duties and purely trade union duties. That agreement is still in force. It is important to have the different unions in the civil service.

Too early to comment on Harman case

A Labour MP told the Prime Minister at question time that the majority decision of the House of Lords in the case of Miss Harman was an apparent travesty of common sense.

Mr Greville Janner (Leicester West, Lab) said: Mrs Thatcher said that the House of Lords had made a decision in the Harman case which was a travesty of common sense. He said that the House of Lords had made a decision in the Harman case which was a travesty of common sense.

Mr Christopher Price (Leisham, West, Lab) said the majority judgment, for the first time in British history, had created a distinction between two kinds of journalists. First there were the people they called court reporters and newspaper reporters. He said that the House of Lords had made a decision in the Harman case which was a travesty of common sense.

Our High Commissioner is naturally doing all he can to inquire exactly what has happened and we hope detention will not proceed.

Representations to Zimbabwe

Hopes that the detention in Zimbabwe of Mr Wally Scutcliffe, the MP detained for two months under an emergency powers order, would not proceed were expressed by the Prime Minister.

Mr Ian Lloyd (Havant and Waterlooville, Lab) said that he was a registered venison dealer. He had always been the case that costs in test cases were borne by the Government.

Mr Anthony Marlow (Northampton, North, C) had asked if Mr Ridley had read an interesting article in a reputable national newspaper about a coup in Zimbabwe. He said that the House of Lords had made a decision in the Harman case which was a travesty of common sense.

Lord Lovat (C) said he was entirely opposed to firing rifles or shotguns at night. Shooting at night tended to lead to further poaching and depredation of deer stock. The use of shotguns was unforfeitable. Enormous cruelty was being done to the deer.

Lord Burton (C) said he was entirely opposed to firing rifles or shotguns at night. Shooting at night tended to lead to further poaching and depredation of deer stock. The use of shotguns was unforfeitable. Enormous cruelty was being done to the deer.

Jury to decide over excuse for threat

Region: Cousins Before Lord Justice Eveleigh, Mr Justice Milmo and Mr Justice Drake [Judgment delivered February 9]

When a defendant was charged with an offence under the Criminal Law Act 1977, it was a question for the jury whether the defendant was acting in self-defence. It was a question for the jury whether the defendant was acting in self-defence. It was a question for the jury whether the defendant was acting in self-defence.

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Lord Justice Eveleigh and Lord Justice Watkins agreed.

Solicitors: Sinclair Roche & Temperley.

Parents can appeal when child has own lawyer

Southwark London Borough v C (a Minor) and Others (Minors) v Martin and Another Before Sir John Arnold, President of the Family Division [Judgment delivered February 8]

A parent had a right on the crown of a child to appeal to the court following proceedings in the juvenile court under the Children and Young Persons Act 1969 notwithstanding that the lower court the minor had been separately represented and the child's legal advisers had accepted that the child's best interests were in the making of the child.

Sir John Arnold, President, said that the parent had a right on the crown of a child to appeal to the court following proceedings in the juvenile court under the Children and Young Persons Act 1969 notwithstanding that the lower court the minor had been separately represented and the child's legal advisers had accepted that the child's best interests were in the making of the child.

Lord Justice Eveleigh and Lord Justice Watkins agreed.

Solicitors: Sinclair Roche & Temperley.

Howe may approach US about interest rates

INTEREST RATES

The Government would consider the suggestion of further consultations with the United States administration over the level of their interest rates, Sir Geoffrey Howe, Chancellor of the Exchequer, said when asked if it was his policy to seek to achieve lower rates of interest by agreement with other governments.

Sir Geoffrey Howe stated that while the policies of individual governments on interest rates must be determined largely in the light of their domestic circumstances, it was important that countries should have regard to the international consequences of their actions.

Mr Stanley Newsom (Harlow, Lab) asked whether the Chancellor admitted that the forecasts in his Budget speech of reduced interest rates being produced as a result of increased taxation and vicious cuts in public expenditure have been shown to be worthless.

The Budget which President Reagan is producing with its crazy 18 per cent increase in defence expenditure threatens a deficit which will produce an increase in interest rates throughout the world. This demonstrates the crash folly of the economic policies pursued by Reagan and by this Government.

Sir Geoffrey Howe: The Budget I produced last year enabled this country to enjoy throughout the summer interest rates which were several points lower than they would otherwise have been, and several points lower than in other countries around the world.

The main reason for the increase in interest rates here in September was the impact of the higher interest rates in the United States. That increase was itself a consequence of higher prospects of United States public sector borrowing.

For that reason, while we support the general objectives of the United States policy, we urge upon them the need to contain their budget deficits just as we do upon ourselves.

Mr Terence Higgins (Worthing, C): The score for reduction of United Kingdom interest rates, even if the monetary aggregates are moving in a satisfactory direction, is little while United States interest rates remain high.

In view of the remarks made today by Mr Paul Volcker will he consider whether he should have a consultation with the United States administration and in the light of what he has said also with members of Congress.

Sir Geoffrey Howe: I accept his point. Certainly while we do not change the United States interest rates are the sole influence on our own, they have a powerful effect.

When so, we must continue to achieve the right for our own financial and monetary policies so far as we can. It is equally important that the United States should help to make plain to the United States our concern about the level of their prospective budget deficit and its implications for interest rates around the world.

We have already, in the European nations, taken steps to do this. I shall consider carefully his suggestion.

Mr Peter Shore, chief Opposition spokesman on Treasury and economic affairs (Tower Hamlets, Stepney and Poplar, Lab) said that the House of Lords had made a decision in the Harman case which was a travesty of common sense.

One major reason why interest rates have gone up during the year is the abolition of exchange control and the flood of British money which according to the last September quarter of the Bank of England amounted to 25 per cent of the total savings of last year's pension and insurance funds.

Mr Anthony Marlow (Northampton, North, C) had asked if Mr Ridley had read an interesting article in a reputable national newspaper about a coup in Zimbabwe. He said that the House of Lords had made a decision in the Harman case which was a travesty of common sense.

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Premium put on living in sin

For tax purposes most couples are better off married than single, Mr Nicholas Ridley, Financial Secretary to the Treasury, said during question time.

It is only (he said) where the wife, potential wife or potentially separated wife has a large investment income that this does not apply. The balance is between marrying for money and being taxed on it for your pains. (Laughter).

Mr Anthony Marlow (Northampton, North, C) had asked if Mr Ridley had read an interesting article in a reputable national newspaper about a coup in Zimbabwe. He said that the House of Lords had made a decision in the Harman case which was a travesty of common sense.

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Compensation terms cannot be changed

The compensation terms under the Compensation Act 1977 should not be altered retrospectively, Lord Cullen of Ashbourne, Lord-in-Waiting, said for the Government in the House of Lords.

He said that the Government would be submitting its observations on applications to the European Commission of Human Rights and he could not say that it would not make further applications for more time.

Lord Harris of High Cross (Ind) asked whether the Government would reconsider the admittedly inadequate compensation paid by its predecessors under the Act in view of the cases being brought against Britain in the commission.

Will he pledge, he also asked, no further Government request for adjournment of the hearings before the European Commission?

Lord Cullen of Ashbourne: I cannot satisfy him by saying that we will not make further application for more time before making our replies.

He added that there were nine applications by shipbuilding companies to the Commission.

Canada Bill in Commons

The main business in the House of Commons next week will be: Monday: Private Member's motion on defence. Debate on report of Select Committee on Procedure (Supply). Tuesday: Motions on the rate support grant. Wednesday: Canada Bill, second reading. Thursday: Motions on National Health Service (Determination of Regions) Order. Constitution of District Health Authorities Order and the Determination of Districts Order. Friday: Private Members' Bills: Dons (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill and Restrictive Trade Practices (Amendment) Bill, second readings. The main business in the House of Lords next week will be: Monday: Copyright Act 1956 (Amendment) Bill, second reading. Debate on report of the Select Committee on Science and Technology on science and government. Debate on tidal power from the Severn estuary. Tuesday: Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill, second reading. Junior Hospital Doctors Bill, second reading. Debate on personal savings and housing markets. Wednesday: Debate on the need for a better educated working population. Thursday: Leasehold Reform Bill, second reading. Opticians Act 1956 (Amendment) Bill, second reading.

More cash for British volunteers

OVERSEAS AID

The Government was making available more than £4m, an increase of 22 per cent, to support British Volunteers in Developing Countries, Mr Neil Marten, Minister for Overseas Development, announced during a debate on overseas development.

This would allow about 600 new volunteers to be sent into the field this year, he said, compared with about 520 new volunteers last year, and a strengthening of the administrative support available in the United Kingdom and Overseas.

He had been impressed by the excellent contribution made by the volunteer sending societies, particularly in the poorest countries. The Government had maintained the value of its financial support to the British Volunteer Programme.

The Overseas Development administration met 90 per cent of the agreed budget costs of the sending societies in the form of a grant, and following consultations with them, and subject to Parliamentary approval, the Government planned to increase its support by 20 per cent in cash terms to over £4m in 1982-83.

The Government's plan to cut its overseas aid programme by at least 11 per cent in real terms over the next five years, Mr Frank McElhone, Opposition spokesman on overseas development, said when opening the debate.

He moved a motion condemning the proposed cut and deploring the Government's policy of moving away from funding projects that helped the poorest groups in the Third World. Such actions only served to confirm the callous indifference of the Government towards the 800 million people who were living in absolute poverty.

The motion called on the Government to increase and not reduce Britain's aid programme so it moved towards, and not away from, its stated commitment to reach 0.7 per cent of GNP for official development assistance.

He said that despite the pious statements of President Reagan and Mrs Thatcher, the summit at Cancun had been a dismal and abject failure. It was no wonder the British Government had no credibility or standing with anyone in the aid and development world.

The Prime Minister had the dubious distinction of being consistent in her hypocritical approach to the poor in the Third World. Against the continuing cruel and callous treatment of the Third World, not one minister had squealed.

There was a scandalous collusion between the Government and the American administration over Nicaragua, now a free

country but almost bankrupt after 40 years of dictatorship. Britain would not help that country because President Reagan said so.

How much longer (he said) can we have a Prime Minister endangering the standing and integrity of this country by continuing to ride shotgun on the wagon of this dangerous old Californian in the White House?

Mr Neil Marten, Minister for Overseas Development, moved an amendment welcoming the Government's decision to maintain an aid programme in excess of £1,000m, which "provides a substantial and effective response to the real needs of the poorest countries and helps to safeguard jobs in export industries in this country."

Mr Marten said the most useful contribution they could make was to restore the aid programme to the economy and maintain an open trading system. It was essential to limit public expenditure, and this unfortunately had led to cuts in many areas, including the aid programme.

The aid programme would fall in cash by some 2 per cent in the next. Clearly the fall in real terms would be greater by an amount depending on the actual rate of inflation, which the Government was working to keep to a minimum.

Nevertheless, the programme was substantial. The gross aid programme for the current year exceeded £1,000m for the first time and would remain more than £1,000m next year. Only four countries, United States, France,

West Germany and Japan, gave more aid than the United Kingdom and these all had stronger economies.

Technical cooperation comprised more than one third of the aid programme. In 1980 there were some 7,000 experts supported by the British Government under the arrangement known as the White House.

The increased aid advanced to the Commonwealth Development Corporation from £30m in 1981-82 to £40m in 1982-83, with a planning figure of £37m for 1983-84, and the ability to borrow in foreign currency on approved terms with a government guarantee up to a total of £100m in each of the next three financial years, demonstrated the importance the Government attached to the CDC rule.

Contributions to multilateral agencies for population control to £15m in the next financial year.

Since the beginning of the aid/trade programme in 1978, a commitment of £174m from the scheme had opened the way to developing countries and getting out of the EEC would enable Britain to do better.

Dame Judith Hart (Lanark, Lab) said that the House of Lords had made a decision in the Harman case which was a travesty of common sense.

For tax purposes most couples are better off married than single, Mr Nicholas Ridley, Financial Secretary to the Treasury, said during question time.

It is only (he said) where the wife, potential wife or potentially separated wife has a large investment income that this does not apply. The balance is between marrying for money and being taxed on it for your pains. (Laughter).

Mr Anthony Marlow (Northampton, North, C) had asked if Mr Ridley had read an interesting article in a reputable national newspaper about a coup in Zimbabwe. He said that the House of Lords had made a decision in the Harman case which was a travesty of common sense.

Lord Lovat (C) said he was entirely opposed to firing rifles or shotguns at night. Shooting at night tended to lead to further poaching and depredation of deer stock. The use of shotguns was unforfeitable. Enormous cruelty was being done to the deer.

Lord Burton (C) said he was entirely opposed to firing rifles or shotguns at night. Shooting at night tended to lead to further poaching and depredation of deer stock. The use of shotguns was unforfeitable. Enormous cruelty was being done to the deer.

The compensation terms under the Compensation Act 1977 should not be altered retrospectively, Lord Cullen of Ashbourne, Lord-in-Waiting, said for the Government in the House of Lords.

He said that the Government would be submitting its observations on applications to the European Commission of Human Rights and he could not say that it would not make further applications for more time.

Lord Harris of High Cross (Ind) asked whether the Government would reconsider the admittedly inadequate compensation paid by its predecessors under the Act in view of the cases being brought against Britain in the commission.

Will he pledge, he also asked, no further Government request for adjournment of the hearings before the European Commission?

Lord Cullen of Ashbourne: I cannot satisfy him by saying that we will not make further application for more time before making our replies.

He added that there were nine applications by shipbuilding companies to the Commission.

In the ordinary way a parent had a right on the crown of a child to appeal to the court following proceedings in the juvenile court under the Children and Young Persons Act 1969 notwithstanding that the lower court the minor had been separately represented and the child's legal advisers had accepted that the child's best interests were in the making of the child.

Sir John Arnold, President, said that the parent had a right on the crown of a child to appeal to the court following proceedings in the juvenile court under the Children and Young Persons Act 1969 notwithstanding that the lower court the minor had been separately represented and the child's legal advisers had accepted that the child's best interests were in the making of the child.

Lord Justice Eveleigh and Lord Justice Watkins agreed.

Solicitors: Sinclair Roche & Temperley.



P.O. Box 7, 200 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8EZ. Telephone: 01-837 1234

HOW THE WEST CAN BE WON

The lights of recovery will go out over Europe if American interest rates keep rising and the Europeans simply moan about it. This is the central economic issue by which the Budget is the petty cash of a small town grocer.

There is a common anxiety about what high interest rates will do to American and European recovery. The Governor of the Bank of England has joined the Chancellor and the Finance Ministers of France and Germany in asking the United States not to defeat the concerted European move to lower rates. President Reagan and his Treasury Secretary Mr. Volcker also want lower rates but the Chairman of the Federal Reserve Board Mr. Paul Volcker says they will go higher and higher, on his money supply policy, and it is up to Mr. Reagan to cut the Administration's budget deficit. Mr. Volcker is calling his voice; and hardly anybody is facing the fundamental malaise whose understanding can point to a better way forward. No good at all can come from the present tendency to blame the Americans. It is a shared dilemma and it calls for a shared solution.

The international malaise is chronic currency instability, a theme for which *The Times* has risked the charge of tedium. No policy to control inflation or encourage growth can work for long in any country when exchange rates are see-sawing in response to vast currency speculation and interest rate wars. It is a pathetic spectacle to see country after country try and cope with inflation by the mechanics of deflation and slump, using record high interest rates which are in themselves a cost push force and which trigger further currency movements and exchange rate instability. The choice for the Europeans between letting their currencies go or raising their own interest rate is a choice between hanging by rope or strangulation. As Lord Lever said recently, we are being committed to the highest common denominator of interest rates or the lowest

common denominator of economic progress.

It is no use haranguing the Americans about this, still less being hypnotised into immobility. What is happening imposes obligations on the United States and on us. They are obligations to co-operate in mitigating the consequences. Two courses are open, both of which leave Mr. Volcker free to have his high rates.

The first is for the Americans to agree to sell dollars as fast as the speculators move into them; the second is for the Federal Reserve to arrange a dollar swap to support the reserves of the European central banks so that the central banks can sell dollars for marks, pounds and francs and maintain their own parties without disturbing their interest rates. The European central banks will have to pay interest on swap dollars; but it is dimes and nickels by comparison to the fraction of gross national product threatened by renewed recession if rates rise again.

Monetarists' objection might be that in providing dollars to acquire foreign currencies the United States would inflate its money supply and Mr. Volcker would be impelled to still higher rates of interest. Only an obsession with mere arithmetic figures related to a quite different situation could produce this result. There is no sensible reason for it; and Mr. Volcker has already indicated a willingness to adjust his monetary targets by mid-summer if the American recession persists.

The funds flowing in can be broadly neutralized; they can end up harmlessly with the Federal Reserve. And if a twenty per cent rate of interest does attract foreign funds into America, what is the point of going to twenty-two? Economic history confirms that the money supply consequences of intervention can be coped with. If this were not so, Germany, and Switzerland would have had the highest interest rate and the highest inflation in the world in recent years. The opposite has been true.

In a world constipated by conventional wisdom, the scheme may sound high-flown. But it is not. Lord ever, who is tireless in the cause of radical monetary reform, advocated something like this in the House of Lords, but recently Mr. Raymond Barre, the former French Prime Minister, who is a recognized Conservative financial figure, had this to say:

"I am convinced that it is possible, while taking account of underlying trends in costs and prices, to eliminate excessive fluctuations of exchange rates by combining interest rate policy and central bank interventions. I disagree with any form of 'benign neglect' in the monetary field. I welcome the recent concerted action of the main central banks in order to cut interest rates. I hope that a collective management of exchange rates will be implemented by monetary authorities of the industrialized countries."

The name of the game is recycling and we can do it. We have done it with hundreds and billions of Opec dollars.

An early European summit should be called. We should then explore these ideas positively with the United States as allies and trading partners. It is a far better course than berating the Americans or retreating into the European ring fence of exchange controls advocated by Mr. Heath. It offers the Americans an opportunity to reassess the economic and political leadership of the West. Without cooperation there is the risk of political disintegration. Here is a chance to rebuild allied unity on the basis of an economically resurgent Europe able to bear its defence responsibilities and to wither the disturbing weed of anti-Americanism.

Can we do it? This is a matter of will. Bretton Woods, which laid the whole monetary foundations for the prosperous postwar generation, was, as Mr. Heath remarked recently, worked out in 21 days. It will be a commentary on political vision today if we do not at least aspire to match that.

SQUEEZE ON THE SCIENCE BUDGET

According to the latest Expenditure White Paper, covering the years 1981-82 to 1983-84, "the Government wishes to give protection to the support of basic science, an activity which underpins further development and is a particular strength of the United Kingdom". The sentiment invites applause. Funds under many other heads of public expenditure were being reduced but "the plans allow for provision for science to be held broadly at the current level throughout the period". The civil science vote, almost all of which goes to the five Research Councils, was being maintained in real value; therefore, it was claimed, basic science would be protected.

It does not work like that. Maintaining the science vote does not by itself maintain the volume of research and advanced training in those fields of science covered by the vote. The series of articles in *The Times* this week on the research councils, the last of which is published today, has shown why that is.

Public financial support for basic science is organized in a system of "dual funding". One stream flows from the Department of Education and Science through the research councils. They run their own institutes and laboratories, (which may be free-standing but are more commonly integral to universities), pay for participation in major international research facilities like CERN, fund research projects carried out in British universities, and support postgraduate training. The other stream flows from the University Grants Committee to the universities, which generate their own facilities and programmes of fundamental scientific research.

While the budgets of the research councils have been protected, those of the universities have been savaged. And if anyone still thinks all that that means is some disappointment among borderline

applicants for university entry and an overdue shake-out of sociologists, he is mistaken. The universities are cutting down academic staff, closing departments, postponing development projects, cancelling purchases of equipment across the whole range of their activities including scientific research. In that obvious way — that only one of the two sources of funding is being protected in value — the Government's claim to be holding the provision for science at a constant level is falsified.

But it goes farther than that. An important feature of dual funding is that the universities provide the research floor (laboratories, standard equipment, ancillary services) all of a required standard while the research councils pay for the time (and it may be years) that particular scientists spend on particular projects of research. If the universities' research floor gives way the research councils' superstructure is damaged. The damage is already visible, and its repair diverts research council funds and reduces their capacity for direct sponsorship.

Even within the research councils' own resources level funding does not necessarily permit level activity, especially when the annual uprating of money values is based on the Treasury's calculated underestimates of inflation rates. The Agricultural Research Council is in difficulties although it is not as closely integrated with the universities as the others. Its difficulties have led it to choose the questionable option of closing whole institutes and research stations including that centre of excellence the Animal Breeding Research Organization in Edinburgh.

The troubles at the Social Science Research Council are different again. After disproportionately large expansion in the mid-1970s it is now singled out for contraction. It has also fallen under the

hateful eye of Sir Keith Joseph who is putting up Lord Rothschild (author of the customer-contractor doctrine) to judge the worth of its existence. It conducts "soft science", which raises doubts in the minds of spectators that physics or medicine does not. But the SSRC is not as soft as all that. The largest slice of its support goes to economics including the economic models now in use (including also Professor James Meade's admired and unfinished work on *Stagflation*).

As a predictive, or even an explanatory, science much of economic remains in the same league as agronomy, but there is no getting away from it. Public affairs are to a large extent conducted by the light of its uncertain rays, so it may as well be brought up to scratch. The fact that it has a long way to go does not disqualify it from receipt of funds intended for the support of a fundamental research capability. There is also a clear public interest in developing other techniques of effect of policy changes and monitoring their outcome.

These observations do not settle the question whether public support for the social sciences is best organized on the research council model, though they do suggest that some capacity for research and power of decision independent of government departments are a good thing.

In these times, and with a government like this, no branch of public activity can hope for exemption from pruning on a priori grounds. However, the Government itself purports to have decided that the support of basic science deserves precisely that protection. Its policies on the other hand are working to produce a contrary effect. It must either revise its rhetoric or adjust its policies, preferably the latter.

obviously misleading. Regrettably, it makes no sense to compare the number of graduates in various countries without taking into account the length of the course.

It is untrue that British engineering students study more intensively than their continental counterparts. On the whole their

courses are two years shorter, and on the whole they know that much less when they graduate.

Yours faithfully
L. SOLYMAR
Fellow in Engineering,
Brasenose College,
Oxford
February 8.

Changing views on lead in petrol

From Dr R. Russell Jones

Sir, In his letter of February 10 your correspondent Mr. Yelland, of Associated Octel, claims that the Lawher committee rejected Needleman's study linking intellectual deficit and increased lead burden.

That statement is not strictly true. The written testimony of Professor Michael Rutter to the Lawher committee was subsequently published in *Developmental Medicine and Child Neurology* (vol 22, supplement no 1, March, 1980). Professor Rutter was asked by the committee to review all the evidence linking lead and intellectual deficit and he was the only member of the Lawher working party to visit Needleman in America. Of Needleman's study he wrote as follows: "There are a number of important questions and reservations about the study and the inference that lead drawn from it, but none of these are sufficient to invalidate the findings" (my italics).

By contrast the Lawher report contains the following sentence: "There are a number of reservations about these studies and the inferences to be drawn from them, which in our view weakens their conclusions" (Lead and Health, section 159).

Readers may feel that this subtle change of emphasis indicates that Rutter's testimony had more weight than the Lawher committee than the advice given to Government by Sir Henry Yellowlee.

Mr. Yelland also claims that no new medical evidence has appeared since Needleman's study was published (in 1979 incidentally, not 1978) if he made that statement on the basis of advice given to him by the medical representatives at Octel then he has been seriously misinformed. Burchfield *et al.* have produced evidence to show that lead levels can be predicted on the basis of Electroencephalographic (EEG) recordings in normal children. Otto *et al.* and Benignus have shown that lead affects brain wave potentials down to blood levels of 7 micrograms per decilitre (the bottom end of the normal range). Yule *et al.* have shown a seven-point IQ deficit in London school children around a mean blood level of 13.52 micrograms per decilitre and Bellingier *et al.* have demonstrated a significant association between lead burden and the proportion of time that children concentrate whilst in the classroom.

This list is by no means comprehensive, but it is sufficient to demonstrate that the CLEAR campaign is not based on hysteria — it is based on medical evidence of the highest quality, and sooner or later that evidence must be debated in a public forum.

Yours faithfully,
ROBIN RUSSELL JONES,
St John's Hospital for Diseases of the Eye,
5 Little Street,
Leicester Square, WC2.
February 10.

Public record service

From Mrs Jeanne Stoddard

Sir, For many years, I have been searching for a particular sixteenth century document in the Public Record Office. After an appeal for help from the staff in Chancery Lane it was finally located. However, the document was in a very fragile condition and it had to be sent for repair before I could examine it. This has now been magnificently done and when I have the odd hour to spare I am able to work on this fascinating fragment of sixteenth century merchant life.

Knowing that the work of restoration is very costly, and being conscious that government cuts have severely affected this department of our national archives, I enquired if I might make a small contribution to the cost of repairing this document. I was astonished to learn that this would not be possible as "... Treasury accounting systems are so complicated and tightly ruled that any cheque made payable to the PRO would just vanish into our annual accounts, and we could only use the money with the greatest difficulty."

What an appalling and senseless attitude in these difficult times. Our national archives are something of which we should be justly proud. They are free to be used by all and the staff are exceptional in their patience and helpfulness, and I am sure there are others who have been willing to offer to help with the cost of restoration only to be met with this bureaucratic dead-end.

Yours faithfully,
JEANNE STODDARD,
40 Margrave Road, W6.
February 9.

Women in orders

From the Reverend Dr E. L. Mascoll

Sir, The Chaplain of St John's College, Oxford (February 6) can hardly be unaware of the principle that God is not bound by his sacraments, but he appears to hold that a critically ill person can receive God's grace only through the ministrations of a validly ordained priest. This is indeed an extreme form of sacerdotalism!

What causes many Anglicans to question the status of ladies who have received the form of priestly ordination is the doubt whether it is (a) possible and (b) morally right for a governing body of one sex to change the conditions which have been accepted as necessary for a valid ordination by the whole Church from earliest days.

Yours faithfully,
E. L. MASCOLL,
30 Bourne Street, SW1.
February 6.

Fears on 'in vitro' fertilization

From Professor I. L. Craft

Sir, It was predictable the British Medical Association's statement following Wednesday's Ethical Committee meeting (report, February 11) would be as bland as the chairman's comments, made even before the meeting, were alarmist. How else does a body representing some doctors defuse a potentially inflammatory situation that need never have arisen? If they first considered the issue in 1972 why did they, and others, not have the foresight to see what was possible in animals, including cryopreservation of embryos, might one day be used to man's advantage?

It is from the latter standpoint that the whole issue should be considered. The profession could have taken advice from interested parties, including lawyers, theologians and the public, not least of all from infertile patients, whose aspirations seem to have been glossed over. *In vitro* fertilization could then have been implemented in a rational way rather than having its very performance questioned by over-reactive outbursts. Rightly or wrongly some infertile couples, disabled by their problem, assume the members of our profession consider them last.

Your well balanced leader (February 10) mentioned the rights of an embryo and the question of legitimacy status. Lawyers have discussed some of these issues, but there have been collaborative attempts to formulate a working policy that would apply to the different practical possibilities of embryo transfer. If a fertilized egg is deemed a potential person, how should we consider the prevention of an embryo successfully implanted each month in a woman using an intrauterine device?

Even legitimacy laws concerning natural conception seem confusing since a child born to a married couple would appear to have legitimate status even if the husband was unknowingly not the biological father. What rights does such a child have to know its biological father? Should it have lesser rights than an adopted child or than an adopted embryo if this practice is ever sanctioned? We should not be accused of having double standards.

Doctors active with this work are concerned with ethics as they wish to protect their patients. In 1979 I requested the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists should consider extending its guidelines for the use of donor semen (AID) to include ovum donation. We would have welcomed ethical discussions with the British Medical Association but no approaches have been made. It is a pity that the humanitarian comment made by the BMA's own secretary, Dr Harward, when speaking on the emotive issue of the recent Down's Syndrome case, had not

been applied to this issue. He is quoted as saying: "they [doctors] must actually see to it that public fears otherwise they will find themselves practicing medicine whilst looking over their shoulders".

Let us hope that out of the storm calm will come, so that we can positively find ways to help those who have never experienced the joy of childbirth and parenthood.

Yours etc,
IAN CRAFT,
Academic Department of
Obstetrics and Gynaecology,
Royal Free Hospital School of
Medicine,
Pond Street, NW3.
February 11.

From the Bishop of Durham

Sir, I would like to draw attention to further cause for concern about possible extensions in the technique of *in vitro* fertilization. One effect of advances in the technology of reproduction (if I may call it that) has been to create a steadily widening gulf between the physical processes of reproduction and their normal emotional and personal concomitants. This is worrying, because the close link between the physical and the personal is a distinctive feature of our humanity. In simple terms, human beings should be conceived, and born, and brought up in love. The fact that this does not always happen is no reason for condoning gratuitous threats to the ideal.

As things stand at present, the new techniques may help to strengthen marriages and permit love to achieve a physical outcome which would otherwise have been frustrated. Under the pressure of personal necessity, the gulf to which I refer can be bridged by the strong desire and commitment of the couple concerned. It is when we contemplate the next step, however, towards ovum and sperm banks, frozen embryos, proxy parents, and heaven knows what beyond, that the gap between what is technically possible and what is humanly desirable begins to look alarming. The further the origin of human life is removed from a fully human and personal context, the greater is the threat to human integrity.

In your leading article you refer to the problems experienced by individuals who do not know their genetic parentage. I suspect there may be equally serious problems for a society in danger of losing its sense of the close connexion between genetic and personal relationships, and between the creation of new life and the loving intimacy in which it ought to happen.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN DUNELM,
Auckland Cathedral, Bishop Auckland,
County Durham.
February 10.

Ethnic schooling

From Councillor Hilary Benn

Sir, Having had direct experience of the effects that an extension of denominational education can have on a multi-ethnic community, I find Mr. Smith's letter (January 26) dangerously superficial.

In 1980, the Conservative-controlled Ealing Council sold an existing comprehensive high school to the Church of England so as to establish a denominational high school in its place at public expense. The decision aroused considerable opposition and divided the local community, including the Church of England, many of whose members were deeply unhappy about the scheme.

Shortly afterwards, one of the Sikh temples in Southall put in a bid to buy another high school in the borough, but was turned down. Having been through this painful and divisive experience, it is not surprising that the children of Ealing as a whole have gained in an educational sense from an event which Mr. Smith would like to see repeated up and down the country.

The case against any extension of voluntary-aided denominational education is overwhelming. First, Mr. Smith is quite wrong to suggest that it would increase parental choice. In present circumstances such an extension could only be achieved at the expense of existing maintained schools, and thus the

freedom of parents to send their children to non-denominational schools would be greatly reduced.

Secondly, it would weaken local authority control of education because under the "dual system" voluntary-aided schools are granted special powers over the admission of pupils. In the face of falling rolls it is vital that we should be able to plan properly for future educational provision, but this will be impossible if the number of voluntary-aided schools is increased.

Thirdly, the most fundamental objection of all is that the principle of comprehensive education (whose purpose is to break down barriers of selection, class, race and social inequality) would be irrevocably damaged if our education system were to be divided on religious grounds.

Although I oppose the further extension of denominational education in the public sector, I am well aware of the concern felt by some parents, particularly from ethnic minorities, about the lack of appropriate religious and cultural education for their children. Schools can play a part in meeting this need through comparative religious education and by encouraging cultural diversity, but within the framework of a comprehensive system.

Yours faithfully,
HILARY BENN,
Ealing, W5.
January 27.

Riots and the media

From Mr Richard Francis

Sir, Anyone reading Lord Rawlinson's remarks in the House of Lords (February 4) could be forgiven for concluding that the Scarman report contained an examination of television coverage of the Brixton riots. It did not, and Lord Scarman did not take evidence from the BBC. Had he done so, the BBC would have pointed out that no television cameras were present at the first riot on Friday, April 10, described in the BBC bulletins as "scuffles".

On Saturday, April 11, camera crews did not arrive until about 45 minutes after the time when Lord Scarman concluded there was a riot and the first brief pictures were not shown until 90 minutes later on BBC 2. A 4½-minute sequence was shown at 10.00pm on BBC 1 by which time, according to the Report, the main disorders were over. Any examination will show that the measured words and pictures used by BBC News scarcely matched the enormity of the "full-scale battle against the police" described by Lord Scarman (82 arrests; 279 police officers injured; 45 members of the public injured; 117 vehicles and 145 premises damaged).

Contrary to Lord Rawlinson's assertion that television authorities have never faced up to the question of imitative violence "with a sufficient sense of responsibility", the BBC's Board of Governors, its advisory councils and senior management have all worked the issue at some length. Together with the IBA, the BBC commissioned an independent study from the British Film Institute Research Unit, the initial results of which indicate the television reporting had little or no impact on the behaviour of the rioters and that very few young people get their information from television news.

The BBC's prime responsibility must be to present to the public an honest picture of what is happening. This means not shirking difficult editorial judgments. Our television news reports would have little credibility if it were thought the cameras were withdrawn from scenes the BBC considered to be too hot to handle.

Yours etc,
RICHARD FRANCIS,
Director, News and Current
Affairs, BBC,
BBC Television Centre, W12.
February 9.

Putting jobless to work

From the President of Selby Oak Colleges

Sir, At a time of massive unemployment, when we are simultaneously celebrating the centenary of Franklin D. Delano Roosevelt's birth, we can hardly fail to ask if there are not statesmen who are prepared to learn from the positive way in which he reversed the trends of unemployment and despair.

The simple fact is that we are paying three million people a living wage for doing nothing. It costs relatively little more to provide socially useful jobs for them to do.

Harry Hopkins within a month put 2,600,000 people on his payroll. They restored 500,000 miles of roads and 40,000 schools improved sanitary facilities for 150,000 and more women. They raked leaves and cleared snow.

Out-of-work teachers taught the illiterate. Out-of-work actors were paid to act, out-of-work librarians to catalogue archives. La Guardia airport was built, the St. Louis riverfront restored. Indian burial grounds were excavated, French and Spanish records translated. Artists painted pictures for public buildings, writers created the American Guide series.

Out of every dollar Hopkins spent \$86 on wages, only 10.5c on materials, and a mere 3.5c on administration. Is there not someone with the imagination and vigour to promote a similar programme, so that in Britain unused gifts may be turned to the service of the community and people who feel unwanted may see that they have a positive contribution to make?

Yours,
JOHN FERGUSON,
Selby Oak Colleges,
Birmingham.
February 5.

RSC subsidy

From the Director of the National Theatre

Sir, Though I wish them well in their battle for more subsidy — they are indeed, in my view, underfunded — I have been concerned over the last two weeks by press reports of the Royal Shakespeare Company comparing our larger Arts Council grant with theirs (*The Times*, February 3). Because the two companies are so different — in their aesthetic, in the way they are housed, and in the way they are administered — these comparisons are meaningless and could, if they are repeated, cause bad blood. I respect the reasons why my friend and colleague Trevor Nunn has felt compelled to put on his boxing gloves. But I am sufficiently stung to put on mine too for a moment.

The RSC well understand why our grant is the largest of the two. We have to pay £2m a year for our building before anything is put on its stages; they have no such cost, nor will they at the Barbican. We operate a continuous world repertoire in all our three theatres; their Stratford work is seasonal and based on one author. They have about 25 per cent more seats than we have and therefore a larger potential box office revenue. More than half their entire operation is in the country where costs are considerably lower than in the city. They have a touring company, only partly paid for by extra grant (five months in the regions last year); the RSC do far less.

That this country has not one but two national companies is a great blessing. The consequent artistic rivalry, a key factor in the artistic health of both, is good and necessary. A dog-fight about our finances is not I hope I have not contributed to it with this letter. I write it only because the position from the National Theatre's point of view should be known.

Yours sincerely,
PETER HALL, Director,
National Theatre,
South Bank, SE1.
February 8.

Last but not least

From the Parliamentary Editor of the Press Association

Sir, I feel sure that only lack of space and modern production methods led my old friend David Wood (*The Times*, February 8) not to make the important point, in his characteristically appropriate piece, that for more than 100 years the Press Association Gallery men, and latterly women, have watched and reported the proceedings of both Houses of Parliament, whatever the hour.

New technology and the vicissitudes of the media should not lead the public to believe that, when others have retired to their beds, the PA is not in position to hear and report for those who wish to know and record "who goes home?" and everything newsworthy that precedes that cry.

Yours faithfully,
M. F. BRAMLEY,
The Press Association Limited,
House of Commons,
February 8.

Split personality

From the Leader of the Liberal Peers

Sir, But you were right (headline February 9). The Alliance did hold together on the Tebbit Bill, even if bits of the SDP did not. The official Liberal and SDP line was the same.

Yours etc,
BYERS,
House of Lords.
February 11.

Assessing faculties

From Dr L. Solyman

Sir, Professor Morris (January 26) may claim to be an expert in international statistics on the economics of education but as far as my own subject, engineering, is concerned his figures are

THE ARTS

Cinema

Vivid imagination of pleasure and pain

Blood Wedding (U)
Camden Plaza

Alligator (AA)
Classics, Oxford Street, Haymarket

Dragonslayer (A)
Odeon, Marble Arch; Classic, Haymarket

Chanel Solitaire (AA)
ABC Shaftesbury Avenue

Death Wish II
Leicester Square Theatre

two knives, a baby's cot, a veil and flowers for the bride. This despite a storyline that sits up and begs to be choked with local colour.

Before the rehearsal (performed without interruption) Saura shows us company members going through the ritual preparations: opening the make-up box, displaying the lucky mascots and photographing, whitening shoes, pinning up hair, the faces are absorbed. A tracking shot then takes Antonio Gades from the dressing room to the studio mirror; he strikes a flamenco pose and leads his troupe in more ritual preparations—exhilarating group movements, with swirling bodies and stamping feet.

Saura's compact film (72 minutes) offers several layers of enjoyment. First, it provides an imaginative version of Gades's equally imaginative ballet of a village wedding dogged by bad omens — where the bride's two lovers (the groom and another, married, man) come together in a hypnotically slow dance of death. *Blood Wedding* is not merely essential viewing for ballet friends anxious to catch an excellent company in action. For Saura looks beyond the *Lorca* ballet to all human creativity; he documents the pleasures and pains of building up an imaginative world from flicked fingers, pendent arms, fixed glances.

The other authentic movie, in a crowded week, is *Alligator*, a late straggler from 1980 made by the team responsible for the Dillinger thriller *The Lady in Red* — the director Lewis Teague and the talented scriptwriter John Sayles. Sayles turned director himself for *The Return of the Secaucus Seven*, a memorable chamber piece about the effects of time on college friends, shown last year at the ICA. But *Alligator* plunges us back into the world of cheap and cheerful exploitation film-making, and depicts the awful consequences of flushing a baby alligator down the lavatory bowl. Enconced in the city sewers, it grows to monstrous proportions by feeding on the discarded



Hypnotic dance of death: Juan Antonio (left) and Antonio Gades in "Blood Wedding"

corpses of dogs used in hormone experiments.

Thus encapsulated, this delightful film may sound ridiculous, even disgusting. But Sayles's script, confidently and unfussily filmed by Lewis Teague, manages to avoid both cheap laughs and cheap thrills. The sight of the outsize reptile bursting through a pavement or chewing the guests at a wedding party remains deliberately comic, yet the narrative never shakes off its undercurrent of tension.

The humour, moreover, always stays on the right side of silliness, helped by the quiet demeanour of the cast. Robert Forster is especially subtle as the policeman pursuing the creature in and out of the sewers; Robin Riker (a lady) provides the traditional romantic interest, and some old Hollywood faces pop up in minor parts (Dean Jagger, Henry Silva). Old Hollywood, indeed, darts impishly through the entire film, but the traditions of monster movies remain pleasantly intact at *Alligator*, to its credit, pokes fun with love and respect. Another monster is featured in *Dragonslayer*, but its adventures are quite different. Instead of city

sewers, this creature stalks the mountains of Urland, a country lost in the mists of time; its antagonist is no biding police officer but Galen Bradwardyn, a sorcerer's apprentice. This dusty epic of the Dark Ages was filmed in Britain by Walt Disney and Paramount, who previously collaborated on Robert Altman's engaging *Popeye*. *Dragonslayer* makes a poor successor, and thrashes about like the dragon itself, painfully in search of a style.

Production and direction are split between the scriptwriting team of Barwood and Matthews Robbins, previously responsible for the contemporary mayhem of *Sugarland Express*; the lore and language of ancient times, however, totally defeat them. The film also disappoints visually. One realises the Dark Ages had no electricity, but that is hardly an excuse for shooting this recreation in murky, unattractive gloom (the culprit is the cameraman Derek Vanlint). The acting of the American principals is equally dim, though Ralph Richardson (cast as Ulrich, last of the great sorcerers) adds a welcome touch of eccentricity. Luckily, there is always the dragon — an animated creation that comes into its own for the

climax, belching fire and sweeping through the air on unexpected wings. After an hour and a half, the film comes to life.

Chanel Solitaire, a French-British co-production, has no such last-minute rescue: this lushly decorated saunter through the early days of Coco Chanel remains turgid throughout. George Kaczender, a Hungarian expatriate director generally based in Canada, pitches his film midway between the serious endeavours of biography and the silly excesses of soap opera, thus achieving the virtues of neither. Marie-France Pisier, as Coco, certainly looks French and wears nice clothes, but the hard graft of building a fashion empire is nowhere indicated.

Finally, there is Michael Winner's *Death Wish II*, which, with an ageing Charles Bronson engaged in a one-man crusade against Los Angeles' undesirable element. The original film, made in 1974, had Bronson doing similar work in New York, and at least told its dubious story cogently. But the sequel, burdened with an idiotic script from David Engelbach, cannot even manage that.

Geoff Brown

Theatre

Magical defence

The Number of the Beast

Bush

Introducing Aleister Crowley in his 1974 play *The Beast*, Snoo Wilson brought him on in a kilt and tam o'shanter dancing to the accompaniment of "Swanee" from a posse of Belgian gendarmes: thus suggesting that however shabby the magical credentials of *The Beast* 666, he was at least good for a laugh.

No such defensive tactics appear in the rewritten and vastly improved version of the play that now arrives at the Bush. It is a composite portrait of all Crowley's masks: mountaineer, man of letters, prophet, sex magician still leaving you free to recall from him as a mountaineer, but without any prodding from the author.

The piece spans six weeks, from the expulsion of Crowley from his self-styled Abbey of Thelema in Sicily, to his arrival at Boulogne with his American mistress Laria (alias the Scarlet Woman) en route to London. It is a portrait of Crowley in mid-career, ringed inside his own myth, before he lost his reputation by attempting public displays of his powers.

The Sicilian scene shows him holding court in a squalid courtyard, admitting a neophyte, and discarding a disciple to slash themselves for uttering the forbidden word "I", and reading the latest denunciation in the English newspapers.

Money is short ("Have you any small change about you, Nuala?"), and the commune is a feud-ridden hovel, but there is no question of his absolute self-confidence and authority. But the scene turns on the illness of Laria's baby daughter, whom Crowley tries to heal with an act of homosexual "sex magic". The child dies, and a chasm opens up between human grief and megalomaniac conviction.

Mr Wilson is not in the business of subjecting Crowley to the values of Mr Average; and, when the scene shifts to the sepulchral grandeur of the Boulogne hotel, it is partly to stage a magical battle in which Crowley, after the obligatory heroin injection, is the victor. The hostler, projected on the grand scale by Maxine Audley, introduces herself not only as Jack the Ripper but as a mage in her own right; proving it by invoking the apparitions of Yeats and Maude Gonne, whose meeting Crowley unwisely interrupts. "Can you do anything?", inquires the old witch contemptuously; whereupon Crowley demonstrates what he means by sex magic in no uncertain terms — leaving her only to attempt a feeble act of vengeance on the bereaved Laria.

Wilson has deliberately released the brakes on common sense, but he offers a defensible magical defence for these events, and recreates the central figure with the full eloquence and erudition of the Crowley legend. In Robin Lefevre's production, which excels in atmospheric changes between the arcane and the commonplace, he is played with weighty and brooding authority by John Stride. Marty Cruickshank's Laria equals him in magnetism, as a woman holding on to her magical identity as the only thing she possesses.

Irving Wardle



John Stride: brooding authority

Blood Brothers

Theatre Royal, E15

How magical theatre seems in the hands of the Mersey-side Young People's Theatre Company. For their one-night stand in London, they performed within the unusual constraints of a proscenium arch. But because the Theatre Royal, Stratford East, is in the midst of a festival of youth theatre, the audience welcomed the company with the rowdy disregard and irrelevant laughter of a school performance. The brilliance of the performance lay first in harnessing that laughter, and then powerfully moving the laughter to tears.

Willy Russell has fashioned a play that magnificently transcends the proposed brief. Between now and the end of May, the company will take the play to the remaining Merseyside schools that expect an offering for their pupils between the age of 14 and 16. Yet Mr Russell has not stinted, and does not offer a minor work. In telling the story of two brothers, twins separated at birth and brought up in the houses of the poor natural mother and the wealthy child-buying mother, Mr Russell offers a fable that grasps attention and never relaxes.

childhood, ignorant of their origin, and become friends. Their mothers separate them with threats and superstitions, and the unnatural tale is told in a highly accomplished, unnaturalistic style, with rhyme, songs and choruses of factory noises all supplied by the company of five. Growing up in Liverpool, they grow apart, with the working-class boy facing unemployment until his rich brother secretly finds him a job. From comedy, it becomes a tragedy of Liverpool's 20 per cent unemployment.

Most remarkable among the performers is Michael Strobel, but all the company in Paul Harman's production are superb. It may well be the best thing Willy Russell has yet written, and so it should be.

Ned Chaillet



The brothers meet in

Opera

The Flying Dutchman

Coliseum

Wagner's first great opera is usually lucky in its productions. The contents are strongly theatrical, the basic theme, never to be left out of mind, is profoundly human, the outward setting cheerful and stimulating to stage director's imagination.

plenty of people to move about and personalize, in the outer scenes. Harry Kupfer's recent Bayreuth production for me went wildly over the top, landing among people and a story far from those visualized by Wagner: some people admired it, and it was brilliantly staged. When I go to a new production of *The Flying Dutchman* I remember Wieland Wagner's intensely and original version at Bayreuth in 1950. Dennis Arundell's at Sadler's Wells, with the astonishing manifestation of the Dutch ship, and Sean Kenny's thrilling sets for Covent Garden with Clifford Williams as producer.

English National Opera's new production is by David Pountney, the forthcoming director of productions remembered happily for his Janacek stagings and, in Wagnerian context, a Meister singer with Scottish Opera of admirable freshness, as well as a bizarre *Don Giovanni* which I appreciated more than some.

Pountney has made his own English version of Wagner's text. His staging is

bold and colourful, theatrical but loyal, his imagination illuminating where Kupfer merely bewildered with irrelevant fantasy.

The *Dutchman*, true to ENO policy, is effectively a cooperative effort by Pountney with his conductor Mark Elder (a burly account of Wagner's first version), stage designers Stefanos Lazaridis and Alex Reid, and especially Nick Chelton as lighting director. Each of their contributions enhances the work of the others, slotting together like pieces in a jigsaw puzzle, not fortuitously but because they must have conspired and agreed beforehand. This atmosphere of complete, ac-



Bailey, Barstow: heroic and affecting

five ensemble is rare in opera today. I would continue it to include the ENO Chorus, its tasks fully extended and carried out vividly and cleanly; also the principal singers.

Josephine Barstow makes a very girlish, fanatical Senta in a glaring red dress, ablaze with monomania, reflected in her bright, hectic, not very legato singing, a surprising and affecting interpretation. Norman Bailey's *Dutchman* is already familiar, and he has the presence to wear some extravagant, because contextually old-fashioned, costumes and still look as much the hero as he sounds in his delivery of that hysterically longing music.

His top register is glorious in its ring, the middle of the voice in danger of unsteadiness under pressure.

Daland is Dennis Wicks, jovial and overjoyed at a wealthy marriage, a truly happy man in his duet with Van Der Decken, and presentation of him to Senta, the radiant preparation for the serious love duet which Barstow and Bailey sang so nobly.

Pountney, as producer, was involved in the preparation of all that, and the appearances of the Dutch ship (one of them contrariwise behind the chorus who are addressing the crew as if sailing the audience), and Chelton's superb lighting, for example in Daland's living-room, vestigial but greatly atmospheric, cosy though obviously formal.

The revolving stage is cleverly used for scene-changes (the three acts are played, as Wagner preferred, without pauses), most strikingly at the end. Senta's self-sacrifice by drowning, a whirling dance amid shifting, mysterious colours and mists, is reflected on the vast fishing boat from the proscenium arch. The representation of this old-fashioned play, about the fated wanderer of the seas, and the faithful, loving woman who redeems him, makes a touching, stirring experience in the theatre, in this production as fresh and thrilling as ever, a good omen for ENO's future with Pountney.

William Mann

Concerts

Fires of London

Queen Elizabeth Hall

There are not too many composers around who make me feel lucky to be living in the 1980s, but certainly Peter Maxwell Davies is one of them. And who could doubt it after such a week? On Sunday I caught on my car radio a thrilling performance of his second symphony, by the BBC Northern Symphony Orchestra under Edward Downes, speeding me up the M40 on my way home after a concert. Then on Tuesday there were two much earlier works to kick off the London Sinfonietta's "Manchester school" series, and on Wednesday a concert by the Fires of London, including two pieces that both demand much and give much: the horror canata *Revelation and Fall* and the recent Piano Sonata.

Davies is too busy composing these days to take on much work as a conductor, but he did make a brief appearance at the start of this Fires evening to give a shapely account of his *Psalm 124*, a little rosary of instrumental meditations on sixteenth-century Scottish sacred music. It was enough to still the mind before the attack offered by the Piano Sonata, which was here being played for the first time in London, following its premiere at last year's Bath Festival.

As on that occasion the performer was Stephen Pruslin, to whose experience and understanding of

Davies's music the sonata is in part a tribute. I found, though, this performance less overwhelming than the first, to some extent because in Bath the piece had been prefaced by two works: a Bach partita and Beethoven's opus 110 sonata. The Beethoven is particularly important as a model, giving the cue not only for some of the sonata's detail but also for the trouble it has in bringing itself to a close, the way it more or less turns back through the routes of slow movement and scherzo.

But if the work's desperate structural tensions were less, the comparatively relaxed atmosphere allowed more normal instruments instead of the original machines, now sadly lost. Strangely, though, this beautiful and tight performance under John Carewe showed how much of Orca-dian gleam, coldness and breadth there is even in Davies's most violent score, and Mary Thomas stumbled

on to the platform not as a madwoman of *The Martyrdom of St Magnus*, alarmed to encounter a hand spitting blood.

Paul Griffiths

BBC SO/Groves

Festival Hall/Radio 3

Earlier in his life, when he was campaigning hard for concerts without the indulgence of well-loved music and without the annoyance of critics, Hindemith may well have been displeased to find himself in the company of Dvorak and Brahms. But there he was on Wednesday, and as attendance figures showed, the more conventional of the BBC Symphony Orchestra's thoughtful and enterprising programmes show, it was perhaps not such a bad place to be.

His *E flat Symphony* of 1940 is not, after all, by any means overexposed in live performance or on record, and the composer would not have been displeased by Wednesday's affectionate performance under the baton of Sir Charles Groves. One of the first works written on his arrival in the States, its characteristic purposefulness of letter seems charged from the first by a new purposefulness of spirit. If Sir Charles concentrated on unravelling the larger blocks of its architecture, at times at the expense of clarifying its

pointing, this served to give it the longer-term momentum needed to brighten its exhaustive and exhausting rhythmic insistence and trying efficiency of detail. Written no doubt with the famous wind section of the BBC Symphony Orchestra in mind, the solos in the second movement ventilated its swirling smog and brought a welcome touch of earlier Hindemithian humour and whimsy to the third movement.

The woodwind took much of the glory, too, in the Brahms Violin Concerto, the soloist in the slow movement's miniature phoe concerto so perfectly poised and intuitively breathed into life that his part could have gone on forever.

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Stock Exchange Prices

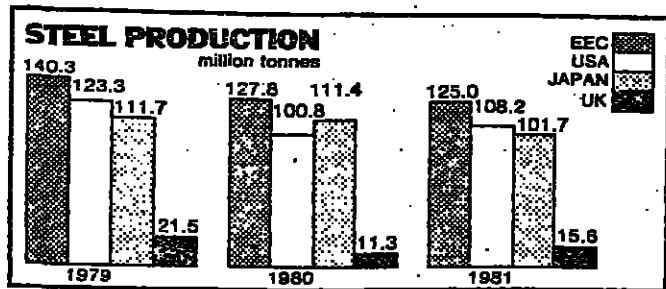
Gains in gilts

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Began, Jan 25. Dealings End Today. \$ Conango Day, Feb 15. Settlement Day, Feb 22.
 \$ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days

1981/82	High	Low	Stock	Price Change	P/E	1981/82	High	Low	Company	Price Change	P/E	1981/82	High	Low	Company	Price Change	P/E	1981/82	High	Low	Company	Price Change	P/E																							
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BUSINESS NEWS

Steel output rises



Steel output by the British Steel Corporation and the independent producers averaged 280,000 tonnes a week in January, a rise of 19.7 per cent on a year earlier when production was affected by a shortage of orders and widespread short time working. Weather hit production last month at BSC's South Wales and Scottish plants while the Teesside works was hit by the rail strikes, and the continuing dispute at Tees Dock.

Gilgate Holdings inquiry

An accountant's committee of inquiry has been set up after the Department of Trade and Industry's report into Gilgate Holdings. Last year three Gilgate directors were found guilty in the High Court of offences under the companies acts and were banned from acting as company directors. Dealings in the company's shares were suspended by the Stock Exchange in December 1980.

Reflation warning by Jenkin

Mr Patrick Jenkin, Secretary of State for Industry, said yesterday the Government should not be panicked into over-hasty reflation which would stoke up inflationary pressures and cause excessive pay demands, rising the costs and loss of competitiveness. The recession had caused widespread changes in attitudes, he said, and there was a new mood of dynamic management "fighting back with a new level of efficiency and a renewed spirit of determination and enterprise".

Sharp fall in EIB borrowing

British borrowing from the European Investment Bank fell dramatically last year as the recession hit industrial investment and demand for funds from the public sector declined. The bank said that its loans to Britain fell to £142.6m in 1981 from £171.3m the year before. British industry's borrowings from the EIB's long-term finance bank fell to only £14m, or less than a fifth of 1980's level. The fall is disturbing as the bank's objectives include the combating of unemployment and reducing the divergence of economic performance between the richer EEC member states and the poorer, which include Britain.

Oil flows again

ENI, the Italian state corporation, is to be allowed to buy crude oil again directly from the Saudi state company Petromin. The Saudis blocked deliveries in 1979 because of a scandal over bribes leading to the resignation of Signor Giorgio Mazzanti, ENI's former chairman. ●McMichael Limited, of Slough, has won a £2.7m order for equipment from GEC, which is building the cross-Channel power link. ●Italy is to issue seven-year Treasury bonds paying 14 per cent interest in European Currency Unit, its first issue in a currency other than lire. ●Renold Power Transmission of Manchester has won a £1.5m order from CMI of Oklahoma.

MARKET SUMMARY

Imperial lights dull trading

LONDON EXCHANGE

FT Index 572.0 down 1.7
FT 100s 65.34 up 0.66
FT all share 328.73 up 0.96
Bargains 19,626

After drifting throughout the day in thin trade, the market slipped at the close with the FT index down 1.7 at 572.0. Gilt was an exception on hopes of falling interest rates and long dated and ended up a full point amid strong buying. Trade was in shorts with gains on the day of 1%.

The Government broker sold just £50m of the new exchequer lap, which was marked up by 1%.

Leading equities which had shown small advances for most of the day ended mostly unchanged with BP, static at 246p, Glaxo at 478p, GKN losing 8p to 172p after adverse comment on its United States operations.

Imperial Group was an exception after maintaining the dividend and turning in better than expected profits and the shares put on 5 1/2p to 85p, while Lonrho produced figures that were well above market expectations and the shares rose 3p to 89p.

But the 17 per cent slip in profits for the Dowry Group came as an unwelcome surprise and the shares slipped 5p to 115p.

Talk of a new higher bid for Huntley and Palmer to improve on the 105p a share offer by

Rowntree continues and in New York a Nabisco spokesman said that he had no comment on the group would be the bidder.

In an otherwise subdued brewery sector, Allied Lyons was one of the few features with the shares up 2 1/2p at 83 1/2p, and there are still rumours of a takeover from this quarter.

Elsewhere in breweries, Green-Whitely shed 2p to 115p after its Laker acquisition, but among the leaders Bass was up at 223p and Whitbread A put on 1p to 104p.

Waddington shares were in demand amid talk of an unnamed packaging company picking up shares, and they put on 8p to 122p.

Properties have lagged behind the market in recent weeks but were firmer on hopes of lower interest rates, with leaders Land Securities 5p better at 302p, Great Portland up 4p at 180p, and MEPC 2p ahead at 222p.

Against a dull trend in electricals, BICC anticipates good figures shortly and were up 8p at 327p, while trading news provided a 1p boost to Dale Electrical at 77p. A line of 70,000 Thomson EMIs shares went through the market at 455p.

Henrys have attracted speculative interest on rumours that British Car Auctions was buying, but they slipped 2p to 112p. Eagle Star, however, remained firm in insurance, unchanged at 352p, with the possibility of further developments.

●Sixty-five of 300 workers at Herberger Brooks, piano makers, of Long Eaton, Derbyshire, were declared redundant yesterday.

OTHER EXCHANGES

Hongkong: Hang Seng Index 1,256.57 down 29.83
Tokyo: Closed

CURRENCIES

●Thin nervous trading ahead of American holidays left the dollar and sterling little changed.

LONDON CLOSE

Sterling \$1.8495 up 20 points
Index 91.6 unchanged
DM 4.3800
Fr.F 11.1050
Yen 436.00

Dollar 112.0 down 0.1
DM 2.3662 up 2 points
Gold \$383.81 up \$2.31

MONEY MARKETS

●Periods were little changed. The Bank bought £313m of bills at unchanged rates of 13% to 13 1/2%.

Domestic rates:

Base rates 14%
3-month interbank 14 1/2%
14 1/2%

Euro-currency rates

3-month dollar 16 1/2-16%
3-month DM 10 1/2-10%
3-month Fr.F 15 1/2-15%

TODAY

Building societies' monthly figures for January; retail price index (January); tax and price index (January).
Final results: Alexander Holdings, Brook Tool Engineering, Renown Inc., Wagon Finance Corporation.

First-half profit of £140m at Telecom

By Bill Johnstone, Electronics Correspondent

British Telecom has declared a profit of £140m for the six months to last September just a week before a rival telecommunications network headed by Cable & Wireless is expected to be launched.

Cable & Wireless, in a consortium with Barclays Merchant Bank and BP, will be allowed access to international circuits but under conditions agreed with British Telecom. The consortium is expected to have its own earth station satellite link and British Telecom is to play a dominant role in supervising the international circuits.

The package to be presented to the Cable & Wireless consortium, next week, probably by Mr Eric Sharp, cable's chairman, comes after more than three months of negotiations between Cable & Wireless, the Department of Industry and British Telecom.

The 1,300-kilometre C & A network, called Mercury, will be fully operational in about two years. British Telecom has claimed that the network will cream off some of its lucrative business traffic.

The British Telecom profits declared yesterday show a dramatic turnaround from the £19m loss in the first half the year before.

"Price increases in November 1980, necessary to enable Telecom to reach the Government's financial targets, and to finance its own investment programme, contributed substantially to the half-year profits," the corporation said.

Sir George Jefferson, chairman, predicted last month that the corporation's profits would rise this year because of higher telephone charges and not through increased efficiency. The corporation has said that the whole of its profits will go to finance expansion and modernization, which will cost £1,900m.

In light of the recent statements by the chairman on inefficiencies, the Telecommunication Users' Association is to seek a freeze on tariffs for the rest of the financial year.



Sharp: threat



Jefferson: prediction

Nuclear sell-off may raise £61m for State

By Michael Prest

Amersham International, the state-owned radioactive materials company, was formally put up for sale by public subscription yesterday. The Government is expected to net £61m from the offer, and Amersham will gain £5m from an accompanying share issue. The sale is the latest example of the Government's policy of disposing of state assets to the private sector.

The shares will be quoted on the Stock Exchange at 49p. Under the terms of the offer, for which the Secretary of State for Energy was advised by N. M. Rothschild and Amersham by Morgan Grenfell, up to 50 million 25p shares will be sold at 142p each. Of these 50 million, 4.9 million are owned by the Secretary of State. Another 5.14 million are being offered at the same price. The offer capitalizes Amersham at £71m.

Cazenove & Co, the stock-brokers, placed the issue, which is wholly underwritten, with several hundred institutional investors. Part of the attraction was a forecast that pretax profits for the year the 15 per cent rule can be changed. The special share is redeemable from 1988.

bringing full dividends for the year to 5p gross. After reaching a peak of £6.66m in 1978 Amersham's profits declined to £4.08m last year. But Dr Stewart Burgess, the company's managing director and chief executive, said results had been adversely affected by the strength of sterling.

The company, which is based at Amersham, Buckinghamshire, specializes in making radioactive isotopes for industry and medicine. Of last year's £48.5m turnover 49 per cent was in medical products, 34 per cent research products, and the remainder industrial.

North America is the company's biggest market, accounting for 27 per cent of turnover, while Britain took 17 per cent. Turnover is rising at about 20 per cent compound a year.

The company's articles of association prevent a shareholder from holding more than 15 per cent of the equity. The Government will hold a £1 special rights preference share, the rights of which make the Secretary of State's consent necessary for the 15 per cent rule can be changed. The special share is redeemable from 1988.

Pools patriarch retires for second time

Last fixture for Sir John Moores

By Margaret Pagan

Sir John Moores resigned yesterday for the second time as head of the Littlewoods football pools, mail order and stores empire he founded 59 years ago. At the grand age of 86 Sir John says this time his retirement is for good.

He announced his decision yesterday to end mounting speculation about how long he intended to stay. His successor is Mr John Clement, aged 49, chairman and chief executive of Unigate, the foods and dairy business. He was brought on to the board as a non-executive director at the end of last year and will be non-executive chairman.

Sir John first stepped down as chairman five years ago and was replaced by his son, Mr Peter Moores, aged 49, a director of Singer & Friedlander, the merchant bank, who had been on the Littlewoods board since 1965. But the father took over again in 1980.

The first move to loosen the family structure of what



Sir John: This time it's for good

is probably Europe's largest privately run business was made in August last year with the non-executive appointment of Mr Michael Julien, a director of BICC. Mr Philip Carter is Littlewoods's managing director.

Mr Clement will have the difficult job of liaising between the group's execu-



Royal Bank chiefs: Sir Michael Herries, group chairman, flanked by Mr John Burke (left) and new chief executive Mr Sidney Procter

Shake-up at Royal Bank of Scotland

By Kevin Page

The Royal Bank of Scotland group has reorganized its top management with the long-term intention of merging completely its two subsidiary banks, the Royal Bank in Edinburgh and the London clearing bank Williams and Glyn.

Only three weeks after the Government refused to allow the Royal Bank to merge with another group, it has put in a new chief executive, Mr Sidney Procter, to replace Mr John Bourke.

Mr Sidney Procter, who takes up his position on April

1, said yesterday the long-term merger would be an evolutionary process. A start would be made by co-ordinating services such as marketing and computers. The installation of electronic transfer machines would also be on a group basis.

Mr Procter is managing director of Williams and Glyn. Although he and Sir Michael Herries, group chairman, were reluctant to discuss the board's strategy for expansion after last month's vetoes of the bids from Hongkong and Shanghai and

Standard Chartered, Mr Procter did say that the bank was not going to rush into an acquisition. However, he added that the United States and the Pacific basin were attractive areas for possible acquisitions. Continental Europe was not so attractive. He would not be drawn on suggestions that the Royal Bank strategy involved a merger with Grindlays or the sale of the 39.3 per cent stake in Lloyds & Scottish, which could be designed to provide cash for expansion.

Mr Procter's appointment will refuel speculation that Williams and Glyn will become the driving force behind the group. It provided more than half of last year's pretax profit of £107m and 20 per cent of the Scottish bank's deposits are held in London. Mr Procter said yesterday he favoured Royal Bank opening up more branches in England.

The problem now is to find a successor to Sir Michael Herries who retires next year.

Directors attack new group

By Edward Townsend

Industrial Correspondent

City institutions including the Bank of England and the Stock Exchange have joined with the Confederation of British Industry to sponsor a scheme to promote the appointment of non-executive directors on company boards. A new organization, Promotion of Non-Executive Directors (PRO NED), has been formed and financed by the sponsors and will operate under a panel chaired by Sir Maurice Laing, chairman of the John Laing construction group.

But the formation of PRO NED came under fierce attack yesterday from the Institute of Directors, whose director general, Mr Walter Goldsmith, claimed that the IoD had been deliberately excluded from the panel.

Mr Goldsmith said that PRO NED was a direct attack on the existence and role of the IoD which was the principal body concerned with recommending appropriate board structures. The IoD was astonished, he said, that the British Institute of Management, which was primarily concerned with management matters, should be added to the list of sponsors while the IoD was not.

Sir Maurice, who criticized Mr Goldsmith's "slightly extreme" words, said that the IoD was a commercial organization and it was thought it should not be associated directly with PRO NED.

The new body, whose director is Mr Jonathan Clarkham, a former under-secretary responsible for the Government's public appointment unit, aims to help companies who wish to appoint non-executive directors and to find suitable candidates.

Although non-executive directors often are in the majority on the boards of American public companies, in the United Kingdom they are in the minority but on the increase. The proportion of companies listed in *The Times* 1,000 employing between three and five non-executive board members rose from 26 to 38 per cent between 1976 and 1979.

Business Editor, page 17

Lonrho fails to increase dividend

By Philip Robinson

Lonrho, at present studying proposals to rescue Sir Freddie Laker, has failed to increase its dividend payments for the first time since 1967. On pre-tax profits barely changed at £120m — which includes absorbing a £26m loss from its steel making group Hadfields — the group has maintained the total dividend payment to shareholders at a gross £4.285p.

But the profits for the year to the end of last September, made on a turnover up from £2,100m to £2,456m were better than the City expected after a setback at the half-way stage.

Instead, the group, which earns the bulk of its profit from mining and refining, rose 5 1/2p to 85p compared with 60p in November.

Business editor, page 17

SANKEYS FALLS TO RIVALS

By Anthony Hilton

A new force in the do-it-yourself home improvement market was created yesterday when Home Charm, part of the Texas Homecare stores, paid £14m for the rival chain of Sankeys Homecentre. The combined group will have 56 supermarkets, and 14 smaller units.

It will be one of the largest specialists in the country. The selling company, J H Sankey is 60 per cent owned by the National Coal Board. Mr Manny Fogel, chairman of Home Charm, refused to discuss the profit position claiming that he as purchaser, had not been provided with the figures. However, he has borrowed £14m from Barclays Bank for 12 months to finance the purchase.

Howe snubs EEC finance meeting

From Peter Norman, Brussels, Feb 11

Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Chancellor, will miss Monday's meeting of European Community economics and finance ministers here even though the American monetary policy and interest rates are expected to be high on the agenda.

Belgium, as president of the Community, is anxious to press for a coordinated EEC approach towards monetary relations with countries outside the community and the

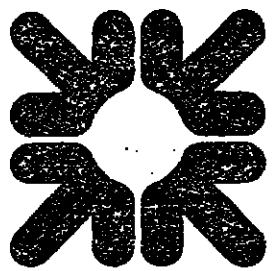
further development of the European Monetary System.

Mr Willy De Clercq, the Belgian finance minister, said today that the EEC is entitled to underline the international consequences of US monetary policies.

The minister, who will be chairing the meeting, said he was sorry Sir Geoffrey would be absent. The Chancellor has let it be known that he is too busy and will be represented by Mr Nicholas Ridley, financial secretary to the Treasury.

Mr De Clercq said the Community should press the United States to cooperate in monetary affairs. Among

the call for a stronger EMS was echoed by Mr Christopher Tugendhat, the senior British member of the EEC Commission, speaking at Lancaster University.



The Royal Bank of Scotland Group Limited

The Royal Bank of Scotland Group Limited announce that Mr. S. Procter has been appointed to the newly-created post of full-time Group Chief Executive. He relinquishes his post as Chief Executive of Williams & Glyn's Bank Limited. Mr. Procter will co-ordinate the activities of The Royal Bank of Scotland Limited and Williams & Glyn's Bank Limited, and the development of Group strategy for future growth. He will be independent of the day-to-day operations of the two banks.

Sir Michael Herries, who is Chairman of both the Group and The Royal Bank of Scotland Limited, will devote more time to Group affairs. To enable him to do this, Mr. J. B. Burke has been appointed full-time Deputy Chairman of The Royal Bank of Scotland Limited, relinquishing both responsibilities as Managing Director of The Royal Bank of Scotland Group Limited and Managing Director of The Royal Bank of Scotland Limited. He will remain a Director of the Group.

Mr. C. M. Winter has been appointed Managing Director of The Royal Bank of Scotland Limited in place of Mr. Burke.

Mr. M. H. Davenport has been appointed Managing Director of Williams & Glyn's Bank Limited in place of Mr. Procter.

Mr. W. J. A. Dacombe, a Director of the Group, will relinquish his post as Assistant Chief Executive of Williams & Glyn's Bank Limited and will devote himself full-time to Group planning and development.

These appointments will take effect on 1st April 1982.

A Group Head Office will be established at 36 St. Andrew Square, Edinburgh, and the Group London Office will be located at 24 Lombard Street when these premises are completed later this year.

The Royal Bank of Scotland Limited WILLIAMS & GLYN'S BANK LIMITED

BUSINESS NEWS/FOCUS AND COMMENT

PEOPLE

Royle road from recession?

Gaity grappled with gloom at yesterday's annual thrash of Royle Group, which since 1833 has become a proud name in old master prints, letterpress, stationery, greeting cards, and the merger documents, prospectuses and annual reports that line a City wall when business is good. Yesterday Royle used its party to sing the praises of its new offshoot, Royle Computer-setting, to give the City clients a faster service. For a time it will, however, be keeping the hot metal warm. Naturally I wish them well, and they will need luck because every printer of City stuff is crying out for custom and Peter Royle, chairman, spoke from the heart when he told his guests: "We shall be looking to you for more fodder!" Royle as a group is breaking even, which must be a relief to its 600 workers, which makes the group Hackney's largest single employer. Old Eric Royle, in his seventies, actually heads the business, but young Peter, 47, minds the shop. Time will tell whether these working Royles — eight out of a 10 strong board — still know the recipe for success. Perhaps St Valentine's Day will turn out nice for them — and perhaps not.

Dustbin full of truth

I'm always looking for truth about mankind and its creations, says William Rathje, a professor of garbageology, with a Ph.D. in anthropology. Rathje and his team search the garbage dumps of the United States, particularly "common household garbage", which he has been looking through for the past 11 years.

His most recent project has been a survey of beer swilling in which 85 per cent of the people when interviewed said they did not drink beer.

"So we looked through their garbage", says Rathje. "We found 25 per cent of the households indeed offered no evidence of beer drinking; 25 drank up to seven tins of beer in one week, and in the rest there was evidence of between seven tins and a case of beer a week."

Rathje, who works at a "garbage pavilion" in Tucson, hopes to start a museum of garbageology.



Roz Hanby

The Concorde story is not all disaster, as Roz Hanby will vouch. Miss Hanby, whose face has featured on British Airways posters in 80 countries over the last seven years, is off to a new career in television. She will leave the airline this Spring having signed with agent Peter Charlesworth in the hope of work as programme presenter and "television personality". Roz says, "I've already had two firm TV offers." She really was a stewardess, just like on the "Fly Girl" adverts, having flown Concorde VC10's and 707's, although these days she's more likely to be seen on planes as a passenger going to BA promotional, and now self-promotional, trips.



"That? Oh, that means Buckton Rules — OK?"

Peter Wainwright

NEW APPOINTMENTS

Mr E. J. Harris has been appointed to the board of Brush Electrical Machines. Mr G. L. Kline has been appointed director and secretary of Westcode Inc. USA. Mr J. B. Maffoch has been appointed to the board of Crompton Lighting. Mr C. M. Ryland has been appointed assistant managing director of Hawker Pacific, Australia. All companies are members of the Hawker Siddeley Group.

Philip Robinson assesses the proposed rescue attempt for Laker's Skytrain service

'Tiny' Rowland: a friend in need for Sir Freddie?



Capitalist buccaneers Sir Freddie Laker and Roland 'Tiny' Rowland, friends for 25 years and now potential partners in a venture to rescue part of Laker Airways

The bankers lost patience; Mrs Thatcher refused help, but Mr Rowland "Tiny" Rowland, the man once described by former Prime Minister Ted Heath as the "unpleasant and unacceptable face of capitalism", has prepared a plan to save Sir Freddie Laker, for whom even the poorest readily save £1.

But behind the new deal — which could make two buccaneering entrepreneurs with a 25-year friendship, into fellow directors of a new company — Mr Rowland could well have his eye on gaining sufficient public and Establishment support to get control of the House of Fraser group and, in particular, Harrods.

Many in the City now take the view that the saviour of Sir Freddie, who is regarded by some to personify the free market spirit, will be sufficient for Mr Rowland, aged 64, to become accepted by a British establishment which has constantly rejected him.

It was this rejection that stopped him gaining control of the 122-store House of Fraser group three months ago when the Monopolies Commission decided by a five-to-one vote that a takeover by his international trading company, Lomrho, would be against the public interest.

The Commission concluded: "We consider that there is a very real and substantial risk that the efficiency of House of Fraser would deteriorate seriously as a result of the merger and that it would be detrimental to the public interest and that it would be exposed by the merger to such a risk."

Mr Rowland immediately attacked the report as disappointing and unfair. He said: "They (the establishment) and the City don't like me and wish I would go away."

In December he agreed with the Department of Trade that subject to not interfering with House of Fraser in the meantime, he would seek approval to bid again.

Lomrho has been working on how to change its business in an attempt to remove Monopolies Commission criticism and is said to be planning to ask if it may try again to bid for Fraser at the end of next month.

Mr Paul Spicer, a Lomrho director, has said: "There was not much criticism of our business in the report and it will not take long to overcome it."

What has pleased Lomrho observers is the way in which Mr Rowland has set about trying to refloat the man who

crashed a week ago today with debts of £270m. It is being taken as a measure of his seriousness that his auditors, Peat Marwick Mitchell have been sent in to conduct a liability study of a slimmed down Skytrain.

They are due to report within days and Mr Rowland believes that he and Sir Freddie could set up a new company which would possibly be floated on the Stock Exchange allowing the public, which has donated around £3m so far, to buy shares and back the man who pioneered cheap air fares.

What the City sees as crucial in the next few days is whether any part of the old Laker which Mr Rowland is prepared to back will be free of all debt. Mr Rowland has said that he reckons with 10 DC 10s and a staff slimmed down from 2,500 to 1,500, a Rowland-Laker Skytrain could be profitable.

That would leave the Laker joint Receiver Mr Bill Mackey with 1 DC 10, three airbuses, three BAC 1-11s and two 707s left to sell for the creditors. He has already raised £4.5m by selling the Laker tour companies. Arrowsmith went

to the vodka-making Warrington brewers, Greenall Whitley, for £4m and Laker Travel to the group specializing in package tours for the over-60s, Saga Holidays.

Mr Rowland is known to be an impulsive buyer, sometimes in areas which have become disasters. Brentford Nylons, and steelmaker Dunford and Elliott are now acknowledged by Lomrho directors as far from good buys. But on those occasions, it is understood that there was no accountants' report prepared.

Lomrho's international business spreads through merchandising, hotels and mining in Africa — where the group started as the London Rhodesian Company — through agricultural equipment retailers, to brewing and publishing.

But its involvement in airlines is small and confined to cargo. It started in May 1975 when the group bought Armitage Industrial Holdings from Mr James Slater for £325,000 worth of shares. Its one asset was a Hawker Siddeley 125 aircraft. Three years later it bought 60 per cent of a Gatwick-based

cargo airline, Tradewinds, which flies Boeing 707s.

Mr Rowland told shareholders in his last annual report that Tradewinds staggered through the year, against overseas competition which it found difficult to meet on equal terms. "We shall need to find a new formula," he said.

The company also has a dealership in Africa for medium range Beechcraft planes, the group also owns a Gulfstream 11 Jet used by Mr Rowland as an office in the skytrain in most African countries.

In the past year Mr Rowland has concentrated on attempting to win control of the House of Fraser, by what critics regarded as a war of attrition.

But he found time to buy The Observer after nearly six months of negotiations with the Government which eventually found that ownership by Lomrho's Scottish publishing arm George Outram of the Glasgow Herald, would not constitute a monopoly.

The deal was worth £6m, of which £3m was in cash and

the remainder made up of a 20 per cent stake in George Outram, paid to Observer owner, Atlantic Richfield (Arco).

The newspaper deal also brought Mr Rowland new friends in the shape of Arco's president Mr Robert Anderson. More deals with Arco were expected by the City and there is some suggestion that it may be involved in the Laker rescue, although it is unlikely that the Civil Aviation Authority would be allowed to grant licences unless Mr Rowland's plan was an all British affair.

It is estimated that Mr Rowland would have to put up between £50m and £70m for the planes. Lomrho says it has the money. The last balance sheet showed around £135m cash which was partially earmarked for a £200m takeover bid for Fraser.

Yesterday Lomrho surprised the stock market with profits for the year to last September slightly up at £120m when analysts were expecting lower metal prices and continued difficulties of its British industrial divisions to pull profits from £119m down to £105m. The figures disclosed that the group spent £21.5m on the partial closure of Hadfields steel manufacturing facilities.

What is still unclear is whether Mr Rowland is preparing to back Sir Freddie with his own money, or whether it is proposed to use Lomrho's cash to finance the initial rescue.

If he intends to use the company's money, it might well upset the group's major institutional shareholder, Gulf Fisheries which invests the money of the Kuwaiti royal family. They have been unhappy with their investment in Lomrho for some time, and this could now come into sharp focus, particularly as Lomrho this year has failed to increase its dividend payments for the first time in years.

In March 1980, Gulf Fisheries failed to stop Lomrho creating 40 million new shares, a 16 per cent increase in the authorized share capital. That was just after an abortive move by financier Mr Graham Ferguson Lacey to buy the Kuwaiti stake with a view to bidding for the rest of Lomrho.

It was the involvement of Sir Hugh Fraser, then chairman of the House of Fraser, in the move by Mr Lacey which changed Mr Rowland's attitude towards the stores group and set up a series of boardroom clashes and public rows which led to the Lomrho bid for Fraser a year ago.

Business Editor

Radical changes in prospect

All is still in the melting pot at Imperial Group. Despite a cleaned-up balance sheet and better-than-expected profits for the year to October there seems little doubt that chairman Geoffrey Kent is poised to add a more radical tinge to the strategic recovery plan formulated since last summer.

So far, head office structure has been rationalized, 1,000 tobacco workers have been made redundant, four Buxted poultry factories closed in addition to a small brewery and a bottling plant in the Courage division, and £100m realised from the sale of the Mollins stake and the BAT interest.

The JB Eastwood poultry group is clearly up for sale just when it is coming into profit. But Mr Kent made it clear yesterday that there are no "constraints on given possibilities." In other words his mind is open to options ranging from a demerger of the Ross foods division perhaps, to a closure of one of the tobacco factories.

Meanwhile a £21m drop in pre-tax profit to £106m for 1981 is due partly to the £20.5m full-year contribution from Howard Johnson, although perhaps a third of this derived from exchange rate gains. Net of financing costs, Rojo brought in only £300,000. Not much of a return on a £280m investment.

The brewing side made £50.7m against £42.4m despite the slump in overall beer consumption, estimated at more than 10 per cent. However, Courage's market share is at a 10-year peak. Food contributed a 20 per cent rise at £12.3m masking poultry losses. But tobacco profits slipped 21 per cent at £63.6m reflecting an overall industry decline of 15 per cent over the past year. Another price-cutting war after the expected Budget savagery is likely. Duties in 1981 rose 32 per cent.

The stockmarket was pleased enough at the maintenance of the total dividend at 7.25p which is covered once by retentions. Longer term, Imps problem is how to develop a mix of mature industries like tobacco and brewing, and new, profitable products. Painful decisions lie ahead.

Most recently there has been an expansion of the use of the non-executive director role in venture capital situations. An increasing amount of institutional money is being placed in the hands of small companies. The institutions have nominated non-executive directors to keep an eye on their interests, and to provide financial expertise.

One of the acknowledged tasks of the non-executive director is to advise on the structure and level of remuneration of executive directors. The non-executive director can also usefully be the way in which banks or major investors can bring in experienced businessmen to assess company doctors' when the full-time executives have been unable to stop a company getting into trouble.

Telecom

Muddled critics

British Telecom is catching flak for its latest half-year figures which show a profit of £140m. This compares with a loss of £19m in the corresponding six months of the previous year and a profit of £181m for 1980-81. The problem is that there is still no agreement about the role of this state-owned industry. Is it to be run as a commercial enterprise, maximizing its profits like

any private sector? Or is its approach to be tempered by other, political or social considerations?

Its critics cannot have it both ways. Targets set by the Government dictate that Telecom makes 5 per cent on its capital. But for the last two years the corporation has failed to achieve this target. According to Telecom's chairman, profits this year are the result of tariff increases rather than much-needed efficiency gains.

Criticism of the latest profits is thus missing the mark. It is not the size of the profit which is unsatisfactory, but the way it is being made.

Telecom needs to increase profitability to finance its ambitious investment programme. More than 85 per cent of its investment is generated internally. The Government remains unable to decide how it wants to fund the corporation and is considering the possibility of selling parts of it to the public.

Until these issues are settled and the corporation is given a stable financial framework in which to run its business, it will continue to be subject to muddled and misguided criticism.

Boards For the boys?

The initiative announced yesterday by the City and industrial establishment to provide the use of non-executive directors is at least excellent in theory. In practice the merits of the appointment will depend on the quality of the man.

If the appointment really has been made to bring in the help of a specialist skill, or to aid in decisions of company strategy, then the contribution to its financial health will be useful. There is always the danger that it will fall in the "jobs for the boys" category.

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'The Clam' claims to rule the waves

TECHNOLOGY: ALTERNATIVE ENERGY

By Clive Cookson

The clam claims to have beaten the duck, the cylinder, the bag and three "oscillating water columns" in the race to prove that it can generate electricity from the ocean waves at a price competitive with conventional power stations.

Next month, the Department of Energy's Advisory Council on Research and Development (ACORD) will decide whether the clam team — Lancaster Polytechnic and the Sea Energy Associates (SEA) consortium — should be given the £10m they want to build and test a two-thirds scale prototype of the device.

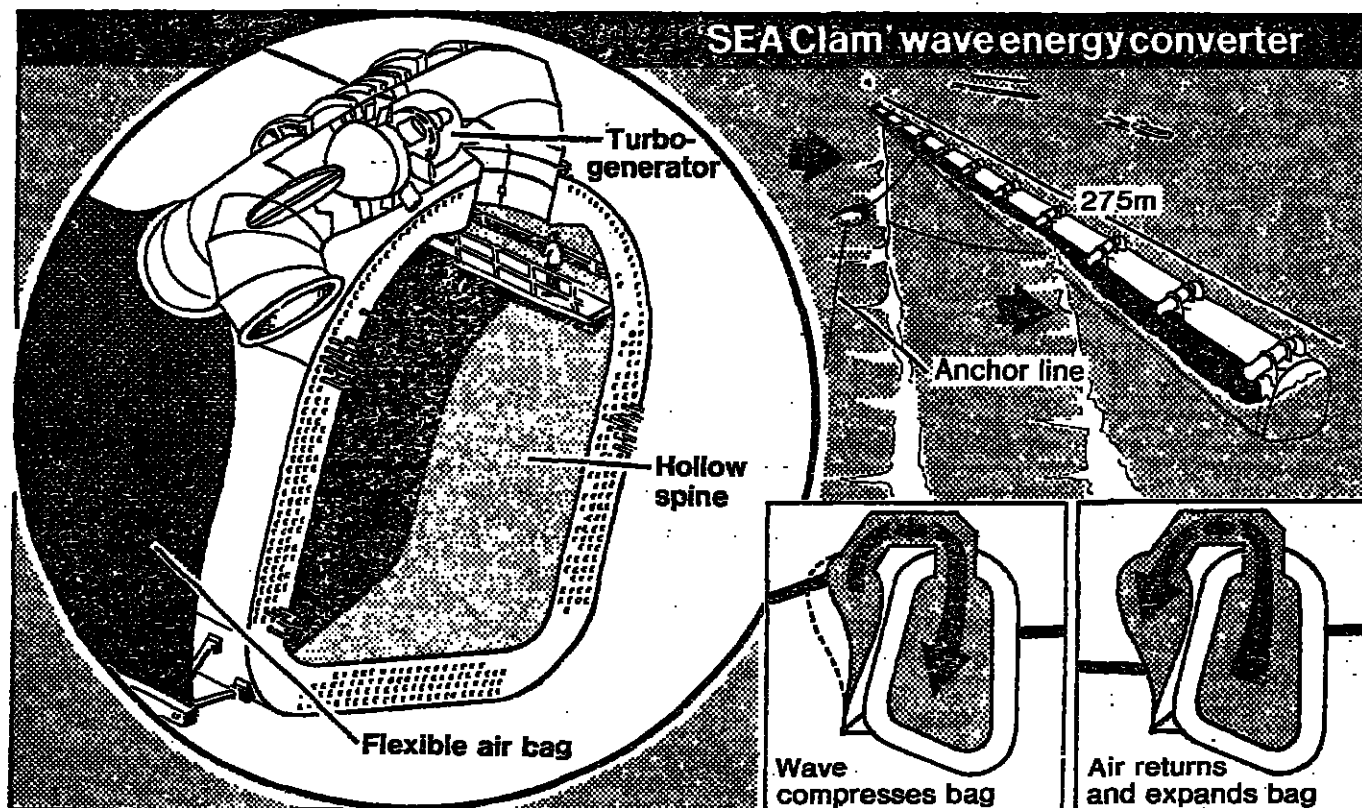
ACORD is assessing the clam for all alternative energy sources, and some wave enthusiasts fear that the council may decide to phase out support for wave power altogether, concentrating funds on wind and geothermal energy.

But perhaps the most likely outcome is a decision to defer matters for a year or two. In that case, the energy department would continue its policy of distributing about a million a year to a number of wave research projects, keeping several options open.

The seven British teams working on wave power systems presented the projects to Dr Tony Challis, the energy department's chief scientist, last month. Of course, all were enthusiastic about the long-term promise of their devices, but some were not yet prepared to plunge into building a large-scale prototype. SEA, the competing groups argued that the Government should sponsor more research rather than committing itself to a single project that might not be the most appropriate choice in the long run.

SEA team has calculated that a full-scale array of clams off the Hebrides could generate electricity for the national grid at 5p per kilowatt hour. That is within the cost range of modern coal or oil-fired power stations.

Dr Tony Peatfield, deputy director of the project, said that Rendell Palmer & Tritton, the consulting engineers who are helping the



A front-runner in the race to harness energy created by wave power

Department of Energy evaluate the seven wave-power proposals, have accepted the 5p per unit estimate for the clam. The figure is derived from the performance of a one-tenth scale model on Loch Ness, supplemented by laboratory tests in wave tanks.

The device no longer looks like a clam because it was redesigned last year without its original "shell", but the group has decided not to change its name. The shell-less clam is now a simple structure: it has a series of flexible air bags mounted along a long hollow spine of reinforced concrete.

The bags are made of tough Kevlar fabric, which the Avon Rubber Company makes for tyres and hovercraft skirts. Passing waves push them in and out, forcing air into and out of the spine through a turbine. The "self-rectifying" turbine, which turns in the same direction whether the air is moving in or out, drives a conventional electric generator.

The previous design had steel flaps the "shells" outside the bags to take the full force of the waves. Elimination of the flaps and their hinges has cut the clam's costs by 20 per cent.

So far, the Department of Energy has given the clam little financial support. The project has been funded mainly by the industrial members of Sea Energy Associates — Ready Mixed Concrete, Cawoods and Fairclough Construction. But Dr Peatfield says the companies' financial resources would not stretch to the £10m, five-year investment needed to build the proposed prototype unless they saw a "fairly competitive market" for the device.

The SEA consortium has had inquiries from abroad for example from Barbados and Venezuela — but no foreign country is likely to commit itself to the clam or any other wave energy converter before a prototype has been tested successfully. So it seems that Department of Energy funding will be essential.

A full scale 10 megawatt generating unit would have 10 clam bags attached to a spine 15 metres deep and 275 metres long, moored at an angle to the waves. A 2 gigawatt wave-power station, comparable in output to a large conventional station like Drax B, would require 320 of these devices along 130 kilometers of coastline, and

would cost an estimated £3,400m to build.

Only two of the other six projects are serious rivals of the clam for immediate scaling up to a prototype. One is the Lancaster Flexible Bag, being developed by the University of Lancaster and the Hampshire firm Wavepower. The other is the Oscillating Water Column, which the National Engineering Laboratory has been working on since 1974.

The Lancaster bag is similar to the Lancaster clam in general design and also features a series of air bags arranged along a hollow concrete spine. The main difference is that the Lancaster device has ducts to feed the air from all the bags to a large central turbine, while the clam has a small turbine for each bag.

The National Engineering Laboratory's Oscillating Water Column (OWC) is also an air-driven system, though it looks quite different from the clam and the bag. It is a massive concrete structure with an inverted box that traps a volume of air above the surface of the ocean. As waves pass, the water moves up and down like a piston, forcing the air in and out of the box and through a

The NEL estimates that electricity generated by its OWC would cost between 4p and 6p per unit. The laboratory is hoping that the Energy Department will provide £15m over the next five years to build a full-scale prototype off one of the western islands of Scotland. "Our device is the most practical at the moment," said Mr George Moody, of the NEL.

The team working on the Lancaster bag seem less aggressively competitive than the Lancaster or NEL groups. Professor Michael French, of Lancaster University, who invented the device, warned against the people who "are trying to go too fast, taking the inventions we already have rather than looking around for something better."

And his partner, Mr Jim Platts, of Wavepower Limited, said the energy department would be well advised to pause and assimilate the relative advantages and disadvantages of the different devices, rather than taking an immediate decision which to support. Then a prototype design might be chosen which combined the best features of the various proposals.

DOUGLAS

ROBERT M. DOUGLAS HOLDINGS PLC

Civil Engineering and Building Contractors

INTERIM STATEMENT 1982

The unaudited results for the half year to 30th September, 1981, are as follows:

	1981	1980	Year to 31 Mar 81
	£'000	£'000	£'000
Turnover	53,658	52,798	103,798
Trading profit before depreciation	2,423	2,621	6,028
Depreciation	1,676	1,499	3,043
Profit before taxation	747	1,122	3,049
Taxation	242	309	(556)
Profit attributable to members	505	813	3,344
Earnings per share	5.0p	8.0p	35.7p

It is group practice to incorporate interim profits of associated companies only to the extent of any dividends received from those companies.

Although the results are somewhat disappointing, the Group entered the second half of the financial year with a substantially increased workload in construction and in specialist sub-contracting. Most contracts were taken at keen margins, but it is encouraging to be able to report the improvement in work obtained.

Basically Group profits have been hit by the reduction in total demand in the UK for the goods and services supplied by our Construction Equipment Division and in Plant Hire, although overseas companies in the Division enjoyed more buoyant trading conditions. The benefits of the reorganisation in the Specialist Contracting Division have not yet materialised, and the Division operated at a loss during the six months. The Construction Division profits were greatly improved compared with the corresponding period last year, although substantial loss provisions have been made on two public sector contracts of R M Douglas Construction Ltd. No doubt some of these provisions are recoverable in due course of settlement of final accounts. There are prospects of further improvement in the Division's overseas order books, albeit in markets which remain highly competitive.

A scrip issue of one for two ordinary shares was made on 9th October, 1981. The Board have declared an interim dividend of 0.75p (1981 1.1p) per ordinary share payable on 8th April, 1982 to members on the register at the close of business on 18th March, 1982. Subject to unforeseen circumstances it is anticipated that the dividend for the full year will be in the order of 3.5p.

11th February, 1982

JOHN DOUGLAS, Chairman

See
Shareholder

The continuing policy of Lonrho is to build the widest geographical spread of active subsidiaries, thereby balancing and protecting the interests of the shareholder who has chosen to invest through the Company. Over the last twenty-one years this has brought a thirty-fivefold increase in earnings per share, substantially outpacing inflation.

The balance sheet is healthy and assets employed in the Group have increased by 23 per cent. to £1,045 million.

Total net borrowings, excluding those relating to our confirming business, have remained at 34 per cent. of total assets employed, which is the same as last year. At the year end cash balances were £136 million. Net current assets stood at £143 million. With acquisitions and the growth of existing businesses, we are now employing 150,000 people. Group turnover was £2,500 million, and profit before tax £121 million.



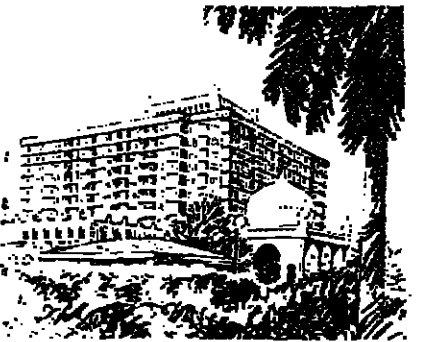
We have made three major purchases since my last Review. In July we bought 50% of Kühne & Nagel, one of the world's biggest cargo, warehousing and forwarding businesses. Towards the close of the year "The Observer", a Sunday newspaper published in London, was acquired by our publishing subsidiary, George Outram and Co., from Atlantic Richfield of California. We also bought out our partner in Princess Properties International, Mr. D. K. Ludwig of New York, and now wholly own the finest resort hotel in the world, the Acapulco Princess, and its sister hotels.

For the first time we have had to bow to the recession of the economy in Britain and curtail operations at the wholly owned steel making subsidiary, Hadfields, after carrying prolonged and heavy trading and extraordinary losses amounting to £26 million. This has, of course, significantly reduced the net profit after tax in the current year, but you will be glad to read later in this Review that Hadfields continues in business as Britain's only independent steel maker to the drop-forging industry, and is now profitable.

Shareholders will have been puzzled at the decision by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission not to recommend that Lonrho's bid for the House of Fraser be allowed to proceed normally. The Commission decided that the bid was, on the whole, not in the public interest, although by a previous decision in 1979 they cleared the way for Lonrho to build up a 30% bid stake in the equity of House of Fraser. On the other hand, the national Press and the financial Press are unanimous in saying that the Report does not present an adequate argument against our making a bid, and that the House of Fraser shareholders should be allowed to take the decision themselves. We are moving to resolve the stated objections of the Commissioners.

Mining

Metal prices were weaker during the year but higher output helped to offset some of the effect on profits. Total Group gold production was increased to 382,000 ounces. A new gold mine was established at Klipval which will increase our total gold production still further next year.



The Princess Tower, Bahamas

Good progress has been made with construction work at Eastern Gold Holdings, a major new gold mine in partnership with the Anglo American Corporation. A subsidiary holds a 36% interest in this important venture. Production plans have now been revised upwards to an eventual 390,000 ounces of gold annually.

Last year I referred to plans to exploit a second higher-grade platinum reef. Construction of the new plant for treating this ore is nearing completion and a large increase in production of platinum group metals above the current level of 134,000 ounces is consequently expected from March 1982. Arrangements for refining and selling the additional platinum group metals are largely complete.

Our collieries increased sales by 14% to new record levels of 3 million tonnes of bituminous coal and 602,000 tonnes of anthracite. Construction work on our new anthracite mine has made good progress and output of 600,000 tonnes is projected.

We continue to search for new mining properties. Prospecting has been directed toward precious metals, coal, diamonds and industrial minerals.

Agriculture and Ranching

Due to the strong price of sugar during the early part of the year and

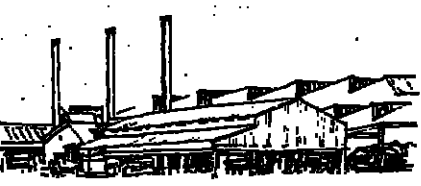
an increase in overall production to over 400,000 tonnes from 65,000 acres, the contribution to profits was substantially ahead of last year and an all-time record.

Both our sugar mills in Malawi and the large factory in Swaziland were working at full capacity. The new sugar project in Benin, in which we have an equity interest and for which we have the management contract, is well advanced and the factory is now being built. We also own three sugar mills in Mauritius.

The success achieved by our operations in irrigated sugar cane in Africa, and especially in the recent Kenana and Dwangwa projects, is becoming appreciated worldwide and consultancy contracts have been offered to us in several new areas including Brazil.

In Zambia we have one of the largest farming companies in the country, which this year grew and sold many thousands of tons of maize, potatoes, wheat and onions, as well as selling cattle and pigs, and supplying some 7 million eggs for the Lusaka market.

In Kenya we have a fully integrated agricultural operation stemming from wattle and its derivatives of tanning extract, charcoal and wood preservative, together with extensive arable farming and ranching activities. All organic waste, straw, feedlot manure and waste wood are utilised in a successful mushroom farm producing 500 tonnes per annum and calling for advanced biological techniques, including spawn production.



The Sucona Sugar Mill, Malawi

In Zimbabwe we grow coffee, wattle and pines, and run several large herds of beef cattle. The Group's total herd averages 100,000 head, with sales of 20,000 a year.

The Group's tea estates in Malawi were affected by poor weather conditions and the final harvest was the lowest for some years at 4 million kilos.

Hotels

1981 represented another excellent year for Princess Properties International, of which Lonrho now owns 100%, having recently acquired the remaining 50% interest.

The Princess Group is pursuing opportunities for worldwide expansion and taking advantage of the excellent reputation it enjoys in the tourist industry.

The new tower addition to the Acapulco Princess will be completed and operational by the late summer of 1982. Additional land has been purchased in Mexico City to complete the hotel and office block site on the magnificent Paseo de la Reforma, and it will represent the most valuable construction site in Mexico.

In the United Kingdom, another poor tourist year has affected the results of our hotels. The modern Birmingham Metropole Hotel achieved a higher profit than forecast, and gained a new record of over six hundred conferences and exhibitions. We are still the foremost Conference and Exhibition Hotel Group in the country, and the continued improvements carried out by our wholly owned builders, Fassnidge Son & Norris, will help to ensure that we retain that position.

The Casino division has grown in the past year under strict management supervision and, when all improvements have been completed, should contribute significantly to your Group's profits.

Motors

As importer for Volkswagen/Audi motor vehicles, our subsidiary V.A.G. (United Kingdom) had a successful year and has surpassed previous figures. It has been a year in which they achieved the highest-ever vehicle sales figure of 83,330 units. With a 5.5% share of the U.K. car market, it became the leading importer of

The continuing policy of Lonrho is to build the widest geographical spread of active subsidiaries

R.W. Rowland, Chief Executive

European cars. We are confident that this trend will continue through 1982.

We also own numerous motor retailing outlets in the United Kingdom through which we sold 20,000 vehicles during the year and increased our share of the British Leyland car market to 5.6%.

We are sole distributors in Britain of Deutz tractors, Fahr agricultural machinery and Taarup mowers, which are proving to be most successful.

Jack Barclay, the world's largest distributor of Rolls-Royce and Bentley motor cars, once again made a significant contribution to the results of our motor retailing division. The new Rolls-Royce Silver Spirit, introduced last year, has been well received.

Jack Barclay European has just completed a full year as Volkswagen/Audi dealers. It has made an encouraging contribution to their main business of servicing their customers' Rolls-Royce and Bentley motor cars.

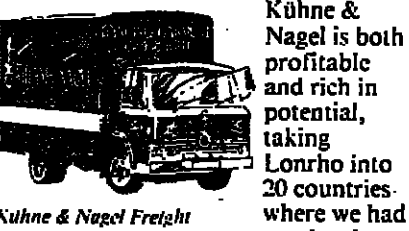


The Volkswagen Golf and Audi Coupe

In East and Central Africa, our motor division suffered from a severe curtailment of import permits due to lack of foreign exchange. In Nigeria we had record sales of 77,500 Yamaha motorcycles and we continued to distribute Mercedes commercial vehicles and Volkswagen motor cars. Overall we sold 216,315 motor vehicles throughout the Group.

Clearing, Forwarding, Warehousing and Cargo

As an international trading company we clear, forward and warehouse on our own behalf. The acquisition of a 50% interest in Kühne & Nagel gives us international capability, with very valuable overseas connections and traditions.



Kühne & Nagel Freight

not been represented.

Kühne & Nagel is both profitable and rich in potential, taking Lonrho into 20 countries where we had previously

They have 300 offices worldwide, and almost a century of experience.

John Holt Shipping Services, the leading air cargo handling agents in Nigeria, achieved a record profit increase of 300%.

Aircraft

Our Beechcraft dealership in Africa had a very good year selling 111 aircraft.



During the year we secured from Gates a franchise for Learjet. The Group owns or leases a total of 30 aircraft, including a Gulfstream II and 3 Boeing 707's.

Textiles

Despite the depressed condition of the textile industry, Lonrho Textiles has managed to hold its market position and the "Accord" range is now firmly established as a major brand of co-ordinated bed linen. The Brentfords chain of shops, which aims at a mass market, was expanded during the financial year and by the year-end 56 shops were open, with three more near completion.

Our Lancashire based David Whitehead textile operations have been re-organised and continue to trade profitably. The John-Barnes division currently exports 50% of its knitted fabric production to the motor trade in Europe.



Knitting machine at David Whitehead

Our textile companies in Africa have again had a very successful year. In Malawi, David Whitehead increased their production of woven cloth by 17% to 34 million yards, while sales in both the domestic and export markets remained buoyant. An important programme of capital expenditure involving the purchase of over 60 new looms is currently in hand in Zimbabwe.

YEAR AT A GLANCE

	1981	1980
Turnover	£2,456.6m	£2,100.7m
Profit before tax	£120.6m	£119.1m
Profit attributable to Shareholders before extraordinary items	£38.1m	£45.0m
Net assets per share	186p	171p

Balance Sheet at 30 September 1981

	1981	1980
FUNDS EMPLOYED	£m	£m
Share capital	65.46	65.22
Reserves	422.71	381.44
Equity interest	488.17	446.66
Minority interests		
Princess Properties International*	99.21	65.16
Other minority interests	113.89	86.16
Deferred tax	-75	-53
	702.02	598.51
Loans	342.87	249.80
	1,044.89	848.31
ASSETS EMPLOYED		
Fixed assets	669.48	539.86
Associates	189.09	137.13
Investments	43.38	24.69
Net current assets	142.94	146.63
	1,044.89	848.31

*The minority interest in Princess Properties International was acquired on 2 December 1981 for a purchase consideration of £52.30m, giving a surplus on acquisition of £46.91m which will be credited to reserves.

Printing and Publishing

After consideration by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission, Outrams acquired "The Observer" newspaper which is one of the oldest and most respected national Sunday newspapers in the United Kingdom. The Observer is a valuable addition to our newspaper interests, which are extensive in Scotland. As a result of this acquisition, we are glad to have the previous owners, Atlantic Richfield of California, as a 20% partner in Outrams.

Outrams, publishers of the "Glasgow Herald" and "Evening Times", had a double success in winning first prize in the "Newspaper Design Awards" for the best designed morning and evening papers in the United Kingdom. During the year, they also started a new Sunday paper, the "Sunday Standard", the first major newspaper to be launched in Scotland in the past 60 years. The profitability of the newspaper industry has been badly affected by increased newspaper costs and reduced advertising revenues and Outrams have suffered accordingly.



Our provincial newspapers group, Scottish & Universal Newspapers, continue to do well in a difficult market and have launched a number of new free distribution newspapers during the year, bringing the combined circulation to over 578,000 copies a week.

In the United Kingdom our printing companies have continued to invest in new technology for the years ahead.

Our wholly owned subsidiary, Harrison's, printers of postage stamps to many governments, have a new contract with the British Post Office to print substantially all their postage stamps for a further five year term. Harrison's have now been associated with the British Post Office for over half a century.

Daniel Greenaway & Sons, financial and security printers, completed in November 1981 its investment in the most advanced computerised phototypesetting system currently available. Our Report and Accounts this year have been produced on the new system, considerably speeding up the time normally taken to prepare and print.

The performance of our printing and newspaper companies in Africa has generally been satisfactory, although Printpak in Kenya has made losses.

Export Confirming and Broking

High interest and wide fluctuations in international exchange rates have affected the performance of the international financing operations of Balfour Williamson, whose profits were slightly down on last year.

John Holt's export confirming with West Africa has improved with turnover increased by 50% to £81 million after several years in the doldrums.

Our cotton broking firm has traded satisfactorily, handling 44,000 tonnes in a subdued market.

Property

With our wholly owned subsidiaries, London City & Westcliff Properties and A.V.P. Properties, Lonrho owns a portfolio of commercial and industrial properties in England and France which has a value of £65 million.

The gross rental income from these properties is in excess of £5 million and has increased by 9% in the year.

Department Stores

We continue to hold 30% of the House of Fraser department store chain, worth £72 million at current share prices. I outlined the present position in my opening remarks, and assure you that we will act reasonably and resolutely to bring about a sensible conclusion.

Wines, Spirits and Beers

Whyte & Mackay, Scotland's most popular blended whisky, increased its sales by 21% in the United Kingdom. The John Holt Wine group in the United Kingdom had sales of nearly £70 million. Within this group, Asher and Nephew now operate 313 off-licenses, and during the year the subsidiary Jones of Speenymoor began bottling "7-UP" for the Tyne Tees area. The vineyards in the Bordeaux area, Châteaux Rausan-Segla, Smith-Haut-Lafitte, La Garde de la Tour and Olivier, and our shippers, Louis Eschenauer, are in good heart, and the 1981 vintage will be a good one.

An important occasion in the Bordeaux wine trade is the "Fête de la Fleur" which was for the first time held in the Graves district and the venue chosen was our own vineyard Chateau Smith-Haut-Lafitte, a signal honour.

In Malawi our breweries produce a traditional African beer which is low in alcohol and high in protein, and sold nearly 13 million gallons. It is planned to build two new breweries to cater for the increasing local demand. The Group also operates a further 17 traditional breweries in partnership with African Governments.

In Nigeria John Holt's Pepsi-Cola plant at Kano doubled its profit in its second full year of production at almost half a million cases of Pepsi-Cola a month. A second plant came into production during the year at Kaduna.

Our Coca Cola bottling plant in Zambia has had a satisfactory year.

Engineering, Steel and Manufacturing

The trading results of our United Kingdom engineering companies were over-shadowed by the problems at Hadfields in Sheffield. Hadfields are in direct competition with the Government owned British Steel Corporation, which immediately following the steel strike in 1980, supported by Government subsidies, embarked upon a programme of price cutting to win back the market share they had lost.

Proposals for the rationalisation of the engineering steels sector were made by British Steel Corporation in March 1981. However, acceptance of these proposals would have meant the total closure of Hadfields and the loss of 2,600 jobs; proposals which your Board considered cruel. It was therefore decided to start our own re-organisation of the company which was completed in June, and since then Hadfields has been making a contribution to Group profits. The losses which we absorbed before making these cuts were very considerable. We have had no financial or other help from the Government.

The Firstel Group were profitable in the year, with Lightfoot Refrigeration achieving a fine return.

Demand for domestic and office furniture and stainless steel sinks remained at a low level for most of the year. However, a small but welcome increase was evident in the final quarter and this trend has continued into the current year.

Hopkinson, our plumbing factors, continued to expand.

Our engineering and manufacturing companies in Zimbabwe continue to go from strength to strength. W. Dahmer and Zambesi Coachworks are two of the country's leading bus, truck and coach-builders, whilst Crittall-Hope manufacture windows and door frames. In Nigeria we sold 10,000 board engines and built 600 glass-fibre boats.

Pipeline

The Trans-Mozambique pipeline is now ready to operate. During the 1981 dry season, some 80 km of damaged pipe were lifted and repaired or replaced. Negotiations are taking place with the Government of Zimbabwe on the tariff and appropriate revisions of the Concession Agreement and agreement in principle has been reached with the Government of Mozambique.

Conclusion

I know you join the Board in appreciating the hard work and initiative of so very many people who work for Lonrho, and who have built up the strength of the Company to the point where we can yet again be proud in presenting the balance sheet to you. We look forward to next year's problems and successes and we hope you will stay with us as a shareholder.

Yours sincerely,
R.W. Rowland

The seventy-third Annual General Meeting of Lonrho Limited will be held at the Great Room, Grosvenor House, Park Lane, London, W.1. on Friday, 2 April, 1982, at 12 noon.

LONRHO

Lonrho Limited, Cheapside House, 138 Cheapside, London, EC2V 6BL.

The text is taken from the Chief Executive's Review contained in the 1981 Report and Accounts which will be published in late February. Copies will be available from The Secretary, Lonrho Limited, Cheapside House, 138 Cheapside, London, EC2V 6BL.

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Football

All-seated stadium and ground sharing are among Fulham's plans

By Stuart Jones
Football Correspondent

Fulham could become the first London club to share its ground. Pioneers already in bringing the predominantly northern sport of Rugby League to the south, they are now offering not only a practical solution to football's financial troubles, but also a glimpse as to what the future may have in store.

The man behind the scheme is Malcolm Macdonald. Once a fearless centre-forward who led the attacks of Newcastle United and Arsenal, he is now leading his club into the town of a new age. Formerly Fulham's chief marketing executive, he has taken on the role of a director of the third division club and its future security. The only cloud on the horizon is the pitch at Craven Cottage.

On May 15 they will stage their last game of the season, the test match for Les Stans. The players will be replaced almost immediately by a new team, which is already certain, but Mr Macdonald has yet to decide which system he will agree to.

A recent survey put the estimated cost of merely levelling the pitch, but not the ground, at £50,000 spread over the next three years. But, as Mr Macdonald pointed out: "How long will that last? Artificial turf is not the answer, he feels, because it changes the basic nature of the game and shortens a player's career by up to two years."

He is seeking a natural surface, one that will last and tear. One method he has been considering is to stretch a huge nylon sheet being stretched out across the pitch and pegged around the perimeter of the ground. To do this the grass pushes its way through the covering, having its roots protected from damage caused by studs.

He may have found it in Horsham. There resides Chipman Ltd, a firm that offers a system with revolutionary irrigation and drainage features, which comes close to Mr Macdonald's ideal. He is to meet a representative next week. It is unlikely to be Denis Thatcher, even though he happens to be a director of the company.

Fulham are currently examining all their options. "It might, for instance, make more financial sense to move to a new site, where," Mr Macdonald said yesterday, "During this decade we plan to create an all-seated stadium, between 20,000 and 25,000 people and also to build a sports complex at the Putney end of the ground. The money we take through the turnstiles should go back into facilities, not into the bank. And to be able to survive, we must make as much use of the pitch to attract crowds more often."

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And then it was the Ashton Gate seven

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Element of farce in Webb's rethink

By Norman Fox

For the third time in a month David Webb has changed his mind about leaving Bournemouth. After a four-hour meeting, club chairman Harold Walker, yesterday, Mr Webb withdrew his resignation.

A situation degenerating into farce may have been influenced by a final visit from the club's financial director, Mr Davidson, who is also a Bournemouth director. Mr Davidson left his helicopter on the pitch at Dean Court and attended the board meeting. Afterwards, Mr Walker said Mr Webb would stay and have the money he required to spend on new players well placed for promotion from the fourth division, but attendances have been disappointing. A month ago Mr Webb threatened to leave but was persuaded to stay. A fortnight ago he said he would resign but Mr Walker gave him 40 hours of leave to think about it.

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Rowing



Oxford choose twins in Boat Race crew

By Jim Railton
Hugh and Robert Clay, who have been selected by Oxford University for the Boat Race, are the first twins to have been chosen for the crew since 1974. The twins, who are 19, are from the same family as the 1974 crew, which won the race. They are both rowers and are expected to be in the crew for the 1982 race.

By Rex Bellamy
It was almost inevitable that the 48th inter-services championship, which was held at the Royal Air Force, would be a success. The RAF, who were the defending champions, won the title for the 48th time.

By Peter West
Northern Merit cable match against Walsley on Saturday. He made himself available, but was disappointed to find that the grounds

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